Daily Report

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End of IPU Conference in New Delhi Reported

Release of Burma's Suu Kyi Demanded

BK1604161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The human rights committee of the Interparliamentary Union has expressed serious concern over the continued detention of 18 parliamentarians in Myanmar [Burma]. The chairman of the committee, Mr. H.S. (Rigorev), said that the committee identified 65 cases of such victims in Myanmar and other parliamentarians facing death sentence in Indonesia as very serious.

The Indian delegation at the interparliamentary conference has called for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi now in detention in Myanmar. In an open letter, they referred to the UN General Assembly resolution and called upon the Government of Myanmar to release the Nobel laureate and other political prisoners immediately.

Pakistan Envoy on Indian 'Atrocities'

BK1704095493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has told the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] conference in New Delhi that atrocities committed by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir continue unabated. Addressing yesterday's session, Pakistani delegate Humayun Akhtar Khan said that at least 10,000 Kashmiri men, women, and children have already been killed. Funeral processions are fired upon, mosques are desecrated, hospitals are attacked, and doctors are prevented from treating patients, the delegate said. He said that the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir continues to gain strength despite brutal acts by the Indian forces.

The Pakistani delegate also referred to the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque. He noted that India has turned the Bombay blast incident into a regrettable campaign to malign Pakistan despite Pakistan's assurance of full cooperation in this regard at the highest level. The Pakistani delegate emphasized that Pakistan condemns terrorism in any form. He said that India, which is currently facing serious internal problems, wants to divert the attention of its people and the world from these problems by blaming others for its own failures.

India Denounces Kashmir Charge

BK1604161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] India has strongly denounced Pakistan for raking up the Kashmir and Ayodhya issues at the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in New Delhi. The Indian delegation, Mr. V.H. Singh, told world parliamentarians this evening that it is ironic that Pakistan should be fanning sympathy for the people of Kashmir while it has grossly denied democratic rights to the people in the Pakistan-occupied territories.

Using his right to reply to the speech of the leader of the Pakistan delegation, Mr. Singh said that New Delhi repeatedly requested Islamabad to desist from all acts of state-sponsored terrorism. After the Bombay blasts, even the international community is exercised over Pakistan's abominable conduct in this regard. He said all should realize that any support given to the terrorists is a violation of the human rights of the people of India. As far as Pakistan's own record of human rights, he said the less said the better. Mr. Singh said that Pakistan has systematically persecuted its religious minorities, reducing them to third class citizens.

Earlier, the leader of the Indian delegation and parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, hit back at Pakistan for raising the issue and charged it with interfering in India's internal affairs. He said the core issue in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir is external support for terrorism and subversion directed against India. He said there is incontrovertible proof in this regard. Taking strong exception to the reference made by the Pakistan delegation yesterday about the recent happenings in Ayodhya, Mr. Shukla said this is an internal matter of India. He said at the time of independence the people of India consciously chose to establish a secular state. He said we are committed to the ideal and shall remain wedded to it for all time to come.

Later, talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondents, Mr. Shukla said:

[Begin Shukla recording] Departing from the tradition and rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Pakistan chose to break the tradition and make a reference to Kashmir, which is a bilateral issue and which are not discussed in such conferences. I wish to reiterate that Kashmir was, is, and shall remain integral part of India. The only remaining issue over Kashmir is the vacation of forcibly occupied territories and vacation of aggression. It was the collective will of the people of Kashmir at the time of independence in 1947 to acceed to India. [end recording]

The deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptullah, also charged Pakistan of misusing international forums for a attacking India and for interfering in her internal affairs. In statement, she said that the concern voiced by the Pakistani delegate about Muslims in India and their places of worship is indeed ludicrous.

Pakistani Editorial on Kashmir

BK1904054493 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 18 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Three Cheers for Gohar Ayub"]

[Text] Speaking at the conference of Inter-Parliamentary Union in New Delhi, the Speaker of National Assembly Gohar Ayub Khan raised the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir and voiced his concern over the destruction of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. Not surprisingly, these remarks touched something raw in the

Indian side, which was quick to rebut these statements with stale and all-too-familiar arguments. We may remind Indian delegates who are projecting the official point of view on these questions that Pakistan is not alone in condemning the wild excesses of Indian security forces in Kashmir. Countries who in the past chose to remain silent on the plight of the Kashmiri people on the ground that this problem should be resolved through negotiations between India and Pakistan, have now more openly criticised India's wide- spread abuse of human rights. Kashmir has become a focus of heightened attention in international diplomatic circuit, not because of the success of Pakistan's public relation effort, but because the level of violence against the population of Kashmir has become impossible to ignore. Statesmen, members of parliaments, and representatives of international media have visited the refugee camps this side of Kashmir and witnessed the battered figures of many men, women and children, who had suffered at the hands of Indian soldiers. Traditionally the British Government, on account of its large scale investment in Indian economy, had tended to tread a cautious policy, but now they had to speak out loud and clear against Indian atrocities on account of of the intense public pressure , which built up as a direct result of massive and indiscriminate brutalities. The Indian argument that Pakistan was interfering in it internal affairs does not count very much. In fact, the entire world is interfering in its internal affairs of their country [as published] because the international community feels it has to condemn human rights violations wherever they may occur. India herself, when these violations are not on its soil, is in the forefront of nations in censuring the wrongdoers. Its aim is to enhance its prestige and boost its image by posing as the voice and tongue of the oppressed.

Since it is not possible for New Delhi to deny the practice of systematic torture and mass killing, it has chosen to confuse the issue by linking the unrest in Kashmir to external support for terrorism. By pursuing this policy India hopes to achieve two results—firstly, it wants to deflect world's attention from the root cause of revolt in the valley—namely the total alienation of local population from Indian rule. The security forces deployed in the valley have all the appearance of an occupation army entrusted with the task of pacifying a turbulent territory. This subterfuge is going to fool nobody. With the spiral of violence reaching new heights, the entire population has become radicalised—even formerly pacifist elements have taken to militancy in view of large scale oppression of citizens. Secondly, India wants to turn to its advantage prevailing anti-Pakistan and anti-Muslim climate in the West. The American-led western alliance has raised the bogey of fundamentalist violence to weaken and destroy any Muslim country which has the potential to become powerful or strong. Pakistan, Iran, Libya and a number of other Muslim countries are on a hit list of the West. Indian allegations against Pakistan of harbouring terrorism provides these hostile nations with useful material. That is why Washington and London lap up this propaganda without critical scrutiny.

In this situation, Mr. Gohar Ayub has rendered a highly commendable service to the cause of truth and justice by raising these issues at this prestigious international forum. India's objections are just a silly attempt to cover up its crimes.

Indian Commentary on Pakistani Delegate

BK1704122793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Commentary by S.K. Singh]

[Text] Hundred and eight countries are represented in the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] meeting which is going on in India just now in Delhi. In this meeting, the leader of the Pakistan delegation Captain Gauhar Ayub, presently speaker of the parliament or National Assembly of Pakistan, chose to make certain remarks which have been castigated by the Indian Foreign Office as irresponsible. It is absolutely necessary for people in these international meetings to observe the rules of the meeting itself and these rules should have prevented Mr. Ayub from making an issue of any bilateral dispute. And that too against the host country. However, Gauhar Ayub is the captain son of a field marshal father and is fairly well known for saying things which are later termed as unfortunate even by his own countrymen, partly, I think, just now the situation of flux in the Pakistani politics should explain why he has done this. I have known him personally for a long time and I know also that he has somewhere within him the ambition of succeeding President Ghulam Ishaq Khan as president himself. He is also fairly popular amongst the Punjabis and the result is that he would at this time wish to have a resonance within the Pakistan media. However, all this has led him into a situation which is somewhat unfortunate from his own point of view also.

The leader of the Indian delegation, Sri. Vidya Charan Shukla, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, chose not to exercise his formal right of reply. In another words, he treated the Pakistani remarks or the Pakistani speech with a kind of contempt normally he would not have done. However, within the main body of his main speech, Minister Shukla dealt very briefly, very succinctly with the points which had been made by Mr. Gauhar Ayub. He stood, picked him off and he said that Kashmir was is and shall remain an integral part of India. He also took strong exception to the references made by Gauhar Ayub to the events in Ayodhya. Minister Shukla called them an internal matter of India with which he did not allow anyone else to have any right to interfere. India's secularism, he said, was well known and was our permanent policy. He took time to point out that the tremendously destructive explosions in Bombay which had resulted in colossal loss of precious lives and property had been at the behest and with the assistance of our neighboring country and he said that it is a cruel irony that after injecting the virus of terrorism into India's body politics the same source is making an

attempt to exploit the consequent cycles of violence in terms of human rights situation.

Now, one has to judge Mr. Ayub's performance in the formal meeting of the IPU in the context of what he has been doing and saying recently. One thing he has been saying to the newspaper correspondents in India in his interviews is that Indians are much poorer than they are in Pakistan and Pakistanis compared to Indians live as nawabs [lords]. He has also made a curious statement that Pakistan does not wish to produce any automobiles because they can afford to buy automobiles. Now, it is very well known (?we) rejoice in the prosperity of Pakistan, but this prosperity is more in the minds of certain people. The per capita income of an average Pakistani is roughly a 20-30 dollars over what it is in India. I don't think he is much sticking to facts. Recently, he unknowingly performed a good deed for us, when he [was] talking in Strasbourg to the members of the European Parliament. He made certain very strong statement of an anti-Indian nature and he said that it would be best for peace and security of this region if India was somehow to disintegrate and he was told quite plainly and candidly by the members of the European Parliament that they did not accept this. He had no right to say such things and that in their view, the security and prosperity of India was the best guarantee of continuing peace and security of this entire region. We should not take Captain Ayub's remarks amiss. These are made in the heat of the moment in the desire of having greater popularity in Pakistan and with an eye on the presidency of Pakistan.

End To Bosnian Conflict Urged

BK1704163993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The 89th interparliamentary conference ended in New Delhi this evening with a call for an end to ethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia, steps to make arms transfer open and transparent, and educational and cultural policies to promote democratic values.

The deliberations of world parliamentarians concluded with an address by the president of the conference, Mr. Shivraj Patil, who described the discussions as full of thoughts and of a very high order. Mr. Patil told the delegates that the discussions on the arms register had focussed different aspects particularly subjects like terrorism.

The resolution on the situation in the former Yugoslavia adopted at the week-long conference strongly condemned the ethnic conflicts there and declared the systematic assault on women in the armed conflicts as a war crime. It stressed the need for a special mission to be sent there to promote peace efforts and human rights, as well as the appointment of a women rapporteur at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to look into violations against women. The resolution demanded that the Bosnian and the Serbs side sign the Vance-Owen peace plan without further delay.

On the U.N. arms register, the conference called on all states to exercise effective control over their arms and military equipment to prevent transfers to parties engaged in illicit arms trafficking. The conference considered that reporting to the register should be compulsory and some form of sanctions should be imposed in cases of false information or failure to report.

The third resolution was on the implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values. It called on all parliamentarians and governments to ensure that citizens are made aware of their democratic rights.

Besides expressing serious concern over the fate of the parliamentarians still in jail in Myanmar [Burma], the interparliamentary council made a special mention of the Indonesian parliamentarian, Mr. Sukatno, who is in detention for 25 years amd facing immediate threat of execution.

AIR correspondent reports that the interparliamentary conference took several decisions in the last day including lifting of suspension of Peru and setting up of a working group to prepare an action plan to correct imbalances in the participation of nien and women in political life. It also decided to send observer missions to the forthcoming elections in Cambodia, El salvador and Mozambique.

Addressing newsmen at the end of the conference the president of the interparliamentary union, Sir Michael Marshal, said the adoption of a resolution on global arms register is a major achievement of the New Delhi interparliamentary conference. He said the resolutions of the conference are very effective as over 100 parliamentarians have been released from prisons in the last decade because of the IPU efforts. Mr. Shivraj Patil who was also present at the press conference said such meetings helps in building international public opinion which is very important in dealing with crucial issues.

The committee on West Asia called upon Israeli and Arab sides to do their utmost to advance the peace process by joining in the talks and participating fully in the dialogue. The committee felt strongly that U.N. security resoltuions be respected and discord on the relevant issues should be avoided to achieve concrete progress in the peace negotiations started one and half years ago.

The next interparliamentary confernce will be held in the Australian capital Canberra.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers Meet in Syria To Discuss Peace Talks

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives

JN1504204193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, arrived in Damascus this evening for the talks

among foreign ministers of the Arab states immediately concerned with the peace process, which will convene in Damascus tomorrow. On hand to welcome him at Damascus International Airport were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, the assistant to the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the head of the PLO's bureau in Damascus.

In an arrival statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Faruq Qaddumi called tomorrow's session extremely important. He said we have come to cooperate with our brothers and evaluate regional developments. As usual, we will arrive at a united position and collectively work out solutions to our problems and share the burden of responsibility, he added.

Qaddumi said that there is no such thing as a purely Palestinian issue; the Palestinian question is a common Arab concern. Syria has borne its share of responsibility along with other brothers, and its history bears testimony to this fact, said Qaddumi.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Comments

JN1604151493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir arrived in Damascus this afternoon to attend meetings of the Arab countries directly concerned with the peace process.

The Jordanian foreign minister was welcomed upon arrival by Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to reporters upon arrival, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the meetings due to be held in Damascus will be a continuation of the meetings held in Damascus toward the end of March. The basic objective of these meetings, he noted, is to review and assess Arab and international developments since then. Discussions and consultations are aimed at reaching appropriate decisions, he added.

Dr. Abu-Jabir pointed out that the Jordanian delegation will exchange views with fraternal Arab delegations on current developments.

In reply to a question, Dr. Abu-Jabir described the recent statements made by Yitzhaq Rabin as contradictory.

Lebanese Foreign Minister on U.S. Role

JN1604162393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Damascus this afternoon to attend meetings of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process.

The Lebanese foreign minister was welcomed upon arrival by Mikha'il Wahbah, head of the foreign minister's office, and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to reporters, Buwayz said that the meeting due to be held by the foreign ministers of countries directly concerned with the peace process will provide an opportunity for exchanging views and assessing the outcome of recent contacts.

Buwayz affirmed that what is important is the unity of the Arab position, adding that this unity will safeguard Arab rights.

Buwayz expressed the belief that the U.S. role in the talks is a primary one, contending that the United States must provide the Madrid conference, which set the peace talks in motion, with the required momentum that prevailed during the initial stages of the peace talks. Buwayz urged the U.S. Administration to make Israel realize that the procrastination and prevarication it demonstrated in the peace process may jeopardize the entire process.

The Lebanese foreign minister went on to say: Israel, which pursued a policy marked by procrastination under various pretexts, must display credibility as well as compliance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference. He described the recent statements made by Yitzhaq Rabin as contradictory and ambiguous.

Egypt's Musa Arrives

JN1604164593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—In a statement to a SANA correspondent upon arrival in Damascus to attend meetings of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: I was honored today with the meeting I held with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. I relayed to his excellency the president a message from His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. For his part, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to relay a reply message, which I will convey to His Excellency President Husni Mubarak tomorrow, God willing.

Musa went on to say: The meeting I had with his excellency the president was good. During that meeting, we discussed a host of important issues concerning the peace process, the Arab homeland, and the meetings due to be held in Damascus today by the Arab states concerned with the peace process.

Coordination Meeting Begins

JN1604170493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (SANA)—Foreign Ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process began their coordination meeting in Damascus this evening.

The Syrian Arab delegation to the Damascus talks is headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', whereas the Egyptian delegation is headed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. As for the Jordanian delegation, it is led by Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is leading the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

This meeting is a continuation of the meeting held in Damascus toward the end of March. During this session of talks, the conferees exchanged views and ideas on the peace process. They also reviewed the consultations held between Arab delegations and the United States, given that the latter is a cosponsor of the peace talks.

Palestinians Request Talks Delay

NC1704071493 Paris AFP in English 0659 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, April 17 (AFP)—The Palestinians asked other Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks to postpone their participation in the negotiations until the beginning of May, a Palestinian source said here Saturday.

The proposal was made during talks here overnight between the Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and Jordanians—the four Arab parties in the peace talks—and Egypt, the only Arab country to have peace with Israel, the source said.

The Palestinians want a delay in talks set to begin Tuesday in Washington so the United States reconsiders demands for Israel to reopen the occupied territories and repatriate the deportees.

Palestinian sources here said Washington, a sponsor, rejected both conditions for resuming the talks, which were derailed over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians on December 17.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa meanwhile urged the Palestinians to resume the talks, stressing that Israel would make concessions once they agree to return to the negotiating table, sources at the meeting said.

The Arab meeting here to determine whether the Arabs attend the talks, which began Friday, may go on to Sunday, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said.

The participants were set to resume their debate later Saturday after taking a break from an overnight session.

Ministers Surprised at Postponement

NC1704131393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (MENA)—The foreign ministers of the five cordon states meeting in Damascus are holding serious discussions about unilateral Palestinian decisions and moves and the failure to adhere to Arab coordination, particularly since the five ministers decided at their meeting in Damascus on 28 March that "there will be no unilateral position regarding the next round of peace negotiations and that the Arab delegations should either all go together or not go at all to the next round of talks." All delegations were surprised when the Palestinian delegation did not abide by this decision and separately asked the United States to postpone the ninth round of the bilateral peace talks in Washington, causing a surprise at the current meeting in Damascus. To preserve a unified Arab position, the five Arab foreign ministers are likely to declare later today Arab adherence to the peace process and leave setting a new date for the ninth round of talks to the two cosponsors—the United States and Russia—or to refer the issue to the Arab League Council that will meet in Cairo tomorrow to take an appropriate stand to preserve the unity of the Arab position.

Ministers Postpone Talks Decision

JN1704151693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1502 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced that the foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process decided today to postpone their decision on the resumption of peace talks in Washington on 20 April until they meet again in Damascus on Monday [19 April].

REUTER cites sources close to the Arab delegations attending the Damascus meetings as saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has phoned the conferees and discussed with them the possibility of postponing the next round of peace talks, scheduled to begin on 20 April, until 25 April to allow additional time for resolving the Palestinian deportee problem.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir left Damascus at noon today for Cairo to attend a meeting of the Arab League Council scheduled to open at the league's Cairo headquarters tomorrow.

'Open Session' Until After Cairo Meeting

JN1704154093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA)—Foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the peace process resumed their coordination meeting this morning. The conferees exchanged viewpoints and continued their consultations over the peace process and the resumption of talks.

In a statement to journalists, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the meeting will remain in open session until after the meeting of Arab foreign ministers, set to begin in Cairo tomorrow. He said: We will return to Damascus to continue the meetings and consultations and reach a decision.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the atmosphere at the meeting is positive.

News Conference Held

JN1704172093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1646 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA)—Foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the peace process resumed their meetings at 1615 today. Members of the delegations attended.

Following this meeting, the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the peace process held a joint news conference that was attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, television networks, and journalists.

At the onset of the news conference, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Our discussions yesterday and today dealt with the contacts that our delegations had held in Washington, as well as the regional and international contacts dealing with the peace process. These consultations and contacts will be followed up and a final meeting will be held in Damascus after tomorrow, Monday, to make an appropriate decision on the peace process and the obstacles hindering it.

Al-Shar' added: The ministers will now leave for Cairo to participate in the meetings of the Arab League Council and will return to Damascus to hold a final meeting.

In reply to a question on whether the postponement was made because no decision was reached, the foreign minister said: There is a need for further consultations and contacts. Our meeting will remain in open session in Damascus, and we will complete these consultations and contacts which primarily seek to eliminate the obstacles hindering the peace process. He added: Of course, you know that statements were made by some Palestinian brothers calling for postponing the ninth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington. We discussed this issue yesterday and today, and we will continue to exchange viewpoints on it and adopt the appropriate decision on Monday.

Asked about his phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: U.S. Secretary Christopher phoned me at noon today and we exchanged views on international efforts to remove the obstacles. I have briefed my colleague ministers on the content of that phone call.

He added: The phone conversation was important and will help us all develop a unified Arab position to resume the peace process and remove the obstacles.

Asked what will happen if Israel does not accept that postponement, al-Shar' said: We, as Arab parties concerned with the peace process, have our own viewpoints. We also have our own circumstances. We have informed the cosponsors of these circumstances, and will also inform them of any developments relating to them. Naturally, setting a date for the resumption of talks—if a unified Arab position in that regard is reached—will be taken care of by the cosponsors.

In response to another question, Faruq al-Shar' said: We in Syria believe in a comprehensive peace. We also believe that a unified Arab position on peace is a very important thing in achieving that peace. Otherwise, it will be difficult for each party to make proper decisions to make progress and achieve peace in this region.

Al-Shar' stressed: One of the principal objectives of the peace process is to return our occupied territories. But, at the same time, we work for a comprehensive peace and stability in this region, and there is no contradiction between the two. True, the Palestinians are working in their own track with the Israelis and we work in ours. But, in the end, there must be a comprehensive settlement which will benefit the region and peace in the entire world.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was asked if Egypt would exert swift on behalf of setting a date for the next round, if a postponement did indeed take place. Musa said: As al-Shar' has pointed out, the meeting is ongoing so that we may hammer out an agreement and emerge with a united stand. A position should be consolidated as a result of the contacts and meetings that have been taking place in Damascus, plus those that will be made in Cairo over the next two days, in addition to what will happen when the meetings resume in Damascus. This position will then be communicated to the cosponsors and further contacts will be pursued if the need arises.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was asked about the obstacles that prompted the Palestinians to propose a postponement of the negotiations. Qaddumi said that at the meeting, the Palestinian delegation set out the difficulties and obstacles which they felt stood in the way of restarting the Washington talks. The brothers, added Qaddumi, sympathized with the Palestinians over the need to first get these difficulties and obstacles out of the way. Contacts will be made toward their removal, since all of us are concerned for the peace process, but we are likewise concerned for the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, he added.

The Palestinian people are under siege, and there is the deportee issue and an understanding of the nature of the peace process, Qaddumi noted.

He dismissed as media speculation [Palestinian negotiator] Faysal al-Husayni's reported presentation of a memorandum to the U.S. Embassy in occupied Jerusalem [as received].

Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the Arab states immediately concerned with the peace process left for Cairo this evening to join the 98th ordinary session of the Arab League Council.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Debate Over Talks, Postponement Decision

Al-Husayni Notes Positive Signs

NC1704110993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian delegation's advisory committee, has announced that there are positive signs that the peace process will be resumed, adding that results will become apparent in the next few hours. He said that some progress has been made in eliminating certain obstacles, including the deportees issue.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, al-Husayni said that the credit for the positive signs should go to President Husni Mubarak's recent strenuous efforts.

Al-Husayni added that the Palestinians are experiencing a sense of relief, particularly in light of the assessment he obtained from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during their meeting in Cairo. He said he obtained a favorable impression that might be reinforced by Israel immediately after the Palestinians resume their participation in the negotiations after the cordon states meeting today.

Asked if Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will remain the actual chairman of the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral talks, al-Husayni affirmed that the PLO has no intention of replacing 'Abd-al-Shafi but that he himself will assume general supervision and coordination between the PLO's delegations to the bilateral and multilateral talks. Al-Husayni also noted that the composition of the delegation might be changed.

'Abd-al-Shafi Urges Postponing Talks

JN1704094993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Manama, 17 Apr (WAKH)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has asserted that the Palestinian team which held talks in Washington has recommended that the Palestinian political leadership should request a postponement of the ninth round of peace talks until there are factors and considerations which will enable the Palestinian and Arab parties to seriously participate in negotiations.

In a statement to the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the meetings held between Palestinian negotiators and U.S. officials over the past two days did not respond to the Palestinian demands, and he pointed out that the ninth round cannot be attended under the current circumstances. The request for postponing the ninth round is a logical, practical action designed to give more time to reconsider the Palestinian demands, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi explained that the Palestinian demands are basic ones and have to do with the credibility of the peace process and with Israel's commitment to the Security Council resolutions. He pointed out that the credibility of the peace process, which has not achieved any progress in the past eight rounds, depends on Israel's honoring of both the terms of reference of negotiations and Resolution 242. The decision to deport some Palestinians was in line with the Israeli stand that disregards the Security Council, he added.

'Abd-al-Shafi indicated that the Palestinian demands have stressed that Israel should abide by the terms of reference of negotiations and that Israel should take an official and open stand which can be put into practice, such as halting the building of settlements. He asserted that the Palestinian delegation's recommendation to the political leadership does not mean that the Palestinians have withdrawn from the peace talks or have disavowed the principle of peace. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinians are prepared to participate in a peace processs that is really credible.

Regarding the reported U.S. deal, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The Americans did not make specific proposals; they talked about a deal and about Israeli promises, provided that we go to the negotiating table. The Americans did not tell us about the content of this deal; they said: Return to the talks and then we will implement the deal. They also talked about the full partner role; but they talked in general, nonspecific, terms. The Palestinian official said: We cannot accept such promises, especially since we attended the Madrid conference on the basis of specific U.S. promises made in a letter [passage indistinct].

PLO Hopes For Resuming Talks Soon

LD1604220693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] A Palestinian official source has stated that the PLO, which is concerned for the resumption and success of the peace negotiations, still hopes that within the coming hours and days the requirements for the resumption of these negotiations are achieved and all the obstacles blocking them are eliminated. The source added that the Palestinian leadership, which continues its contacts with the various international and Arab sides and appreciates the efforts being exerted by sister and friendly countries to provide the appropriate climate and the requirements necessary for resuming the negotiations and making them successful, believes that resolving the deportees' issue, including the brothers who have been deported since 1967, lifting the financial and economic siege our Palestinian people and its national institutions are subjected to and ending the measures of starvation, siege, and isolation and the murderous military oppressive campaigns in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the camps, all constitute indispensable

preconditions for providing the appropriate climate for the resumption of the negotiations.

'Arafat Calls Qaddumi on Talks

NC1704153893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1507 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today telephoned Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO's Political Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the cordon states foreign ministers meeting, which is currently being held in Damascus. A MENA correspondent has learned that the conversation dealt with the Palestinian position on the peace talks. He also learned that during the evening session the ministers will try to reach a decision on participation in the next round of the peace talks, scheduled to convene in Washington on Tuesday, before leaving for Cairo to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled to convene at the Arab League General Secretariat

Talks Leader Explains Postponement

JN1704195893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has stated that practical considerations have dictated the postponement of the session of peace talks scheduled to begin in Washington on 20 April.

Al-Husayni said he hopes that in the next few days sufficient efforts will be exerted to create new facts that would make it possible to hold a session of talks on the new date.

Al-Husayni said the Palestinian delegation did not fight a battle to postpone the session, but, rather, to achieve certain demands. He explained that reaching an understanding on postponing the session is better than having an answer to the effect that there will be no session at all.

Peace Team Negotiator Views Talks

JN1804122393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Tunis, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within "With the Midday Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, currently in Tunis: Good evening.

[Al-Khatib] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan: What are the latest contacts and consultations for ensuring that all parties will attend the next round of negotiations?

[Al-Khatib] As you know, intensive and lengthy contacts were held with the U.S. side in Washington. These dealt with the possibility of fulfilling the necessary Palestinian requirements for holding the next round. Intensive contacts also took place during the foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus on the same issue. Obviously, there has not been sufficient breakthrough whether regarding a better solution to the deportee issue or Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories or the Israeli negotiating stands that conflict with the terms of reference. Accordingly, there is nothing promising or encouraging concerning a return to the negotiations. Therefore, the Arab delegations in Damascus did not agree on holding the round on 20 April. There is an inclination to postpone this round until the 27th [month not specified]. The Palestinian side has not yet agreed on the new date. Arab consultations are expected to continue on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, which will begin today. The cordon states' foreign ministers will resume meetings in Damascus on Monday [19 April] in order to complete discussions on this issue.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan: Do you believe that it is possible to bridge the gap between the Israeli stand on the points impeding the Palestinians' participation in the next round of talks and the Palestinian conditions to attend the talks?

[Al-Khatib] In fact, if there is good will and honest dealing and if the United States plays a more effective role, then this gap can be bridged. The Palestinian side is not making impossible conditions, it is merely seeking guarantees to ensure the success of the negotiations. The Palestinians demand that Resolution 799 be reasonably implemented by returning approximately 400 deportees in general—this figure is not confined to the Palestinians recently deported, but may include all the Palestinians who have been deported since 1967. The Palestinians also demand the quick drawing up of an agreed timetable to return the remainder of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

[Mu'addi] Some Palestinian members recently received threats from Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Did this influence the Palestinians' decision to postpone the coming round of negotiations?

[Al-Khatib] In fact, the Palestinian decision did not change at all after these incidents. The Palestinian side decided some time ago not to return to the negotiations before certain Palestinian requirements and conditions are fulfilled. Following these incidents, the Palestinian stand remains unchanged. The Palestinian position is indeed adopted as a result of the Palestinian leadership's vision. This leadership makes its decisions based on responsibility for the Palestinian people in general, regardless of such sporadic incidents, which are not at all important.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating side, thank you very much.

[Al-Khatib] You are welcome.

Delegate on Talks Postponement

TA1804181693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Arab diplomats in Tunis say the Middle East peace talks will resume on 27 April. The diplomats said the date was set after consultations between the Arabs and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The PLO leadership is meeting tonight in Tunis, but an official announcement on Arab participation, including the Palestinians, is expected no earlier than tomorrow at an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus.

Ghassan al-Khatib is one of the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks in Tunis tonight. Reporter David Ze'ev asked al-Khatib whether the peace talks will begin on 27 April.

[Begin recording] [Al-Khatib] So far there is a suggestion of the resumption on the 27th, but until now the Palestinian side did not give its answer on this new suggestion. It has been set up in consultations between the Arabs and Washington.

[Ze'ev] Are there members of the delegation who are interested in going ahead right now but are being pressured, perhaps by others, not to go ahead with the peace talks?

[Al-Khatib] No, in fact the position is unified to a very large extent, which is that we are insisting on the resumption of the talks, we are committed to the peace process and we have interest in that. However, in order to have this process fruitful and productive there are certain requirements, and in order to resume the discussions there are obstacles to be removed. And here I mean things related to the deportation issue, and things related to human rights in the occupied territories, and things related to the substance of negotiations.

[Ze'ev] What is the effect of the reported or apparent attempts on the lives of various members of the Palestinian delegation? What kind of effect is that having?

[Al-Khatib] To my knowledge, what has been mentioned in the media in this regard is to a very large extent exaggerated. In any case, we are going back to the territories in a few days and the reports we have from our families, from our colleagues is that things are almost normal, and there has been one incident—no harm was done. There is no reason to be afraid at all.

[Ze'ev] But there have been threats in other words?

[Al-Khatib] It seems that there was one minor incident that was not a real threat, but it was passing a message from certain groups about their position vis-a-vis the negotiations.

[Ze'ev] But to whom was the message passed?

[Al-Khatib] It is not important to whom. [end recording]

PNC Urges Withdrawal From Peace Talks

JN1804103093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 93 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Amman—Some 108 Palestine National Council [PNC] members have sent a memorandum to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat requesting him to withdraw from the peace negotiations. They held the United States responsible for Israel's disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, and condemned the Security Council, particularly its permanent member states, for being reluctant to implement Resolution 799 on the repatriation of deportees. Following is the text of the memorandum and the names of the signatories:

We, the undersigned, proceeding from our firm adherence to the Palestinian deportees' right to return home unconditionally, and stemming from the right of our deported and displaced people to return home:

First, hold the United States responsible for Israel's disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost being their right and that of the deportees to repatriation, and also for the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Second, hold Israel fully responsible for the lives of the deportees in the occupied southern Lebanon and for their immediate return.

Third, hold the UN Security Council, particularly the permanent member states, responsible for implementing Resolution 799, which provides for the return of the deportees. We also hold the Council fully responsible for implementing all the resolutions pertaining to deportations, and for the lives of these deportees until they return home.

Fourth, call on the PLO to withdraw from the negotiations as a practical and immediate response to the occupation authorities' recent deportation of 415 Palestinians and to all other repressive and arbitrary measures, including killings, arrests, and harassments against our people. We also call for adherence to the national program.

Fifth, we urge the PLO leadership to call on the various Palestinian people's forces, factions, currents, and national and religious figures to hold a comprehensive democratic dialogue aimed at consolidating national unity as well as activating, safeguarding, and promoting the intifadah on the basis of the national constants. [passage omitted]

PNC Speaker Denies Knowledge of Memo

JN1904063293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 28

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has denied any knowledge of a memorandum submitted by several PNC

members to the Palestinian leadership, reportedly demanding withdrawal from the Washington peace talks.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: I was approached by several people whose names appear on the memorandum, and they affirmed that they know absolutely nothing about it.

Negotiators Discuss Recent Talks

NC1704105893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, 17 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi has emphasized that the delegation will never allow itself to be part of a U.S.-Israeli ploy to perpetuate the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ published today, 'Ashrawi said that the United States has openly sided with Israel without regard to its role as sponsor of the negotiations. She added that there must be no biased attitude granting one side all its demands and preconditions while asking the other side, the Palestinian delegation, to return to the negotiating table before its conditions can be considered. She announced that such behavior will lead to the squandering of the Palestinian people's rights. 'Ashrawi described the talks held by the Palestinian delegation in Washington as unfruitful, noting that the United States presented nothing new during the talks. She added: We cannot be part of a process designed to deny our rights. 'Ashrawi said Palestinian participation in the talks is the difficult number in the equation and its absence will weaken the negotiating process. She voiced confidence in the Arab position, saying that the head of the Syrian delegation, who met with U.S. State Department officials last Monday, assured the Palestinian delegation that if the Palestinian demands are not met the Arab position will remain united. 'Ashrawi pointed out that the Palestinians have unretractable demands that must be met, noting that the Americans and Israelis must demonstrate the Israeli goodwill of which they speak through actual acts. She said Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories must be respected, deportations must stop, the deportees and former exiles banished since 1967 must be allowed to return, and Israel must abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as negotiating points of reference.

Negotiator on Need for Guarantees

JN1904090493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 29

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, has said that Palestinian participation in the ninth round of talks without real guarantees would be a major adventure. If this adventure fails, the Palestinian-Israeli track will be closed once and for all, he added.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Aruri said: In our meetings in Washington, the Americans only made promises and voiced their readiness to announce statements. The proposed U.S. statement does not add anything new to the previous U.S. promises, whereas the Israeli statement made by Yitzhaq Rabin's government justified the deportations, the protection of the Israelis, and the fairness of the Israeli High Court of Justice. The Israeli statement touched on the basic issue by merely saying that there are no Israeli plans for fresh deportations.

Dr. 'Aruri added: We cannot buy a cat in a bag. He asserted that the U.S. position on removing obstacles to the ninth round of talks does not take into consideration the sensitivity of the Palestinian situation that emerged following the recent deportations and Israeli measures, and after the deliberate escalation of repression, siege, and the fragmentation of the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Aruri reaffirmed that the Palestinian delegation cannot participate in the negotiations unless it is sure that they will achieve practical results and a breakthrough. Such results should be sensed by the Palestinians who no longer believe that this path can lead to positive results, and consequently, to restoring the credibility of both the peace process and the negotiating delegation. 'Aruri said: We do not want to once again negotiate on whether the Palestinian territories are occupied or simply disputed lands, as Israeli authorities claim. Accordingly, the central issue is the need to commit Israel to the terms of reference for the negotiations as was stipulated in the U.S. letter of invitation and assurances addressed to the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Aruri added: If the issue of the terms of reference is solved, then many complicated matters will be resolved, particularly the recognition, on the part of Israel, that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied lands and that Palestinians should rule these territories.

Regarding the possibility of postponing the ninth round of negotiations, 'Aruri said: It is not a matter of days or weeks, but rather a matter of demands that should be fulfilled. The moment we feel that our demands are fulfilled we will be ready [to resume the peace talks], he added.

Some reports had said that bilateral talks, scheduled for 20 April, may be postponed until the beginning of May. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of State indicated that the peace talks may be postponed until 26 April to allow time for further consultations and meetings.

Concerning the hopes pinned on President Bill Clinton's administration, Dr. 'Aruri said: There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the new U.S. Administration is following the same policy as the Bush Administration toward the region's issues. There are also conclusions which indicate that the current administration is no less determined, if not actually more determined, to proceed with the peace process and reach settlements in accordance with the U.S. view of a regional solution.

Official Comments on U.S. Talks

JN1904070393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 19

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has stated that [Palestinian chief negotiator] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's contacts in Washington have not realized any of the Palestinian demands that were submitted. The demands had focused on Israel's commitment to international legitimacy, a resolution of the deportee issue, the issue of Jerusalem, the freezing of settlements, and the lifting of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In statements to AL-RA'Y after arriving in Amman from Damascus on his way to attend the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, al-Najjab added that the Palestinian people find themselves between the Israeli hammer and the U.S. anvil. While the Israeli occupation reinforces its siege on our people and its attempts to starve them, the United States closes the UN's door in the face of our attempts to explain the Israeli crimes against our people, as well as our efforts to seek international protection for them. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Bomb Defused Near Arab League Headquarters

NC1804114493 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 18 (AFP)—Explosives experts defused a bomb found in a central Cairo bus station on Sunday following a wave of bombings in Egypt carried out by suspected Muslim fundamentalists.

Correspondents said the device had been placed in the al-Tahrir Square bus terminal, close to the Arab League Headquarters where Arab foreign ministers are set to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Security forces fanned out in the square and explosives experts defused the bomb, they added. But police refused to comment on the incident. [passage omitted]

'Security Source' Denies Report

NC1904051993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—A responsible security source has stated that a report by a news agency today that a bomb had been found and defused in al-Tahrir Square is false. He pointed out that two empty disposable Freon tubes used to refill refrigerators were discovered in the area. Experts asserted that the two tubes were empty and that the gas they usually are filled with is not flammable or explosive. The source said there was no evidence of criminal activity regarding the case.

Musa Returns From Syria, Views Palestinian Stand

NC1704195793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Damascus, where he chaired the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the Middle East crisis. In an arrival statement, Musa said the discussions during the meetings were lengthy and difficult but extremely useful.

Musa said the Palestinians are having problems making a decision on participation in the ninth round of the peace talks because of current events in the occupied territories and other reasons. He noted that the Palestinian delegation stressed more than once that it does not intend to withdraw from the negotiations or go back on its commitment to them. The Palestinian party, he said, wants to be given an opportunity to discuss the current situation. He said the other four parties believe the best solution to the current situation is to open the file at the peace talks so that the other negotiating parties, the parties involved in the peace talks, and the two cosponors can pressure Israeli to end actions that cause difficulties for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Musa said he mentioned certain commitments the cosponsors pledged and the steps Israel is expected to take for the Palestinian delegation to return to the negotiations. He said an agreement was reached on the need for the Palestinian delegation to return to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to advise it of the consensus among all parties on the importance of resuming the talks with the participation of the Palestinian delegation. He said a proposal was put forward to postpone the date of the ninth round of talks a few days so that all parties can participate and to give the Palestinian delegation time to hold consultations and arrive at an opinion. He said all parties hope that the Palestinians will reach a positive stand. He noted that this proposal was discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Envoy to U.S. Notes Steps To Resume Talks

NC1904073093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Washington, 19 Apr (MENA)—Ahmad Mahir, Egypt's ambassador in Washington, has stated that specific steps have been agreed upon to allow for the resumption of the bilateral peace talks between the Arabs and Israel. The talks, which were scheduled to open tomorrow, have been postponed.

The ambassador added that there are three steps: first, an announcement by the Palestinian side that they agree to return to the negotiations; second, a statement by the United States outlining specific points; and third, Israel's announcement of new stands to facilitate the resumption of talks. He noted that these steps had already been agreed upon, adding that the purpose of the current efforts is to find some sort of "harmony" among these steps to enable all parties to resume negotiations and be in a position to conduct effective and fruitful negotiations.

The Egyptian ambassador, who was speaking during a television program broadcast last night, added that these contacts, which he described as highly delicate, are under way among the various countries concerned to set the wheel of negotiations in motion. He pointed out that the U.S. secretary of state is personally involved in part of these contacts. In this respect, the U.S. secretary of state telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the cordon states foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus and made a similar call to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the day before yesterday. Ambassador Mahir emphasized that it serves no purpose to disclose the nature of these contacts, adding that he prefers to give them a chance to bear fruit so that the talks can resume as soon as possible. He noted that the new date proposed so far for the talks is 27 April. [passage omitted]

Dailies Attack Iraqi Minister's Statements in Cairo

NC1904062193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has denounced the Iraqi foreign minister's statement defaming Egypt. The paper pointed out that

upon his arrival in Egypt, the Iraqi foreign minister took the opportunity to slander Egypt because those who manipulate him in Baghdad are unable to give up their usual practice of torpedoing any serious attempt to unify Arab ranks. In its Monday [19 April] editorial, the paper said that the Iraqi foreign minister's statement indicates that he does not know what he is talking about, that he denies the facts, and that he prefers to live under an illusion. There is no surprise in this, the paper says, for he was raised by Iraqi rulers who have lost their minds, and tyranny and defeat have increased their recklessness and aggressiveness. The paper says the Iraqi rulers, as usual, resort to lies and obfuscation—the weapons they use best.

AL-AHRAM said that the Iraqi minister displayed his deep rancor toward Egypt and Egyptians when he gave foolish answers in response to reporters' questions on the rights and funds of Egyptian workers in Iraq. It said that the world has not stopped asking the Iraqi rulers questions, particularly about the Iraqi people's rights.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-AKHBAR chief editor Jalal Duwaydar said that Iraqi officials are short-sighted, lack political common sense, and continue to follow in Saddam Husayn's footsteps. They are experts in hypocrisy and work hard to make the world lose sympathy with the Iraqi people's crisis and they do all they can to foil any overture to help them emerge from their ordeal. He said that an example of this way of unreasonable, clumsy thinking is the statement that Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made upon his arrival in Cairo for the Arab League meetings. Instead of displaying good manners, he demonstrated his extravagance and lack of taste in his response to reporters' questions about disturbances in Iraq. The Iraqi minister disregarded the fact that the regime in Iraq is the pioneer of terrorism in the world. Duwydar noted that such aggressive statements will not encourage anyone to offer the assistance that the Iraqi regime has frequently requested through mediators, despite Egypt's sympathy with and appreciation of the Iraqi people's suffering. The Iraqi people seem to be destined to live under despotism, dictatorship, and threats of terrorism and physical liquidation.

Israel Contacted on Reports of Nuclear Reactor Leak

NC1704095293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—An official Foreign Ministry source has stated that Egypt is following with interest some newspaper and news agency reports about radiation leakage from Israel's Demona reactor in Negev.

The source said Egypt is in touch with the Israeli authorities to verify the reports so that it and the other countries neighboring Israel can take the necessary measures if they turn out to be true.

The source said in a statement today that reports about the leakage prove the wisdom and soundness of Egypt's constant demand that Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and subject all its nuclear facilities and programs to the International Atomic Energy Agency's comprehensive safeguards system, not only to ensure their peaceful use, but also to make sure they meet the international standards for nuclear safety and do not threaten people with radiation.

No Nuclear Contamination Found

NC1804174193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Radioactivity measurements carried out by the Atomic Energy Commission over the past few days showed no traces of environmental radiation in the Sinai Peninsula. Reports had circulated of radiation leakage from Israel's Demona reactor. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Mourns Ozal's Death, Declares Period of Mourning

NC1704201393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The Presidency has issued a statement saying that President Husni Mubarak received with deep sorrow the news of Turkish President Turgut Ozal's death. President Mubarak expressed his heartfelt condolences to the friendly Turkish Government and people. He prays that God almighty will have mercy on the soul of the great departed leader and make paradise his eternal abode, preserve Turkey's security and stability, and grant his family solace. From God we come and unto Him we return.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has declared a three-day period of mourning. President Mubarak sent a cable of condolences to acting Turkish President Husamenttin Cindoruk. The text follows:

I received with profound sorrow the news of the death of President Turgut Ozal, who devoted his life to serving his country and people. I express to you and to the fraternal Turkish people in my name and on behalf of the Egyptian people sincerest condolences on the death of the great leader. I pray that God almighty will have mercy on his soul for the great deeds he accomplished for his homeland. May God spare you and your fraternal people any harm. From God we come and unto Him we return.

President Mubarak also sent a condolence cable to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

Bosnia's Silajdzic Comments, Leaves for Turkey

NC1604161493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic left Cairo this evening for Turkey

after a few days' visit to Egypt. Silajdzic said before departing that he held talks during his visit with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the general situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which he described as becoming more tense each day, particularly since the international community has given the Serbian troops enough time to seize Bosnian territory. He noted that more cities are in danger of collapsing in the next few hours in the face of the violent attacks by 21,000 Serbian troops backed by tanks and guns.

Silajdzic added that his country, which will attend the meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers to be held in Karachi at the end of April, will demand effective measures at the UN level to end the Bosnia crisis, supply it with the necessary financial aid, and enable it to operate basic services destroyed by the Serbian aggression. He noted that Bosnia also will ask the international and Islamic communities to urge the United Nations to try to lift the arms ban imposed on Bosnia. This ban is illegal and inhumane, particularly since under the UN Charter all countries have the right to defend themselves.

President Mubarak Replaces Interior Minister

NC1804090693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree appointing Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi as interior minister, replacing Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

President Mubarak also issued a republican decree appointing Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali as state minister.

The two new ministers took the constitutional oath this morning before Mubarak. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the President's Office.

Major General Hasan al-Alfi was born on 21 March 1936. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1957 and obtained a law degree from 'Ayn Shams University and a diploma from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy on management and combating crime through modern scientific methods. Al-Alfi also served as director of the Department for Investigating Public Funds and Tax Evasion. He also has served as governor of Suhaj and Asyut Governorates. He is married and has three sons.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali was born in 1952. He graduated from the Cairo University's Economics and Political Science College in 1974 and obtained his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980. He has lectured at Cairo University, has worked as an economic expert at the IMF, and has served as adviser to the prime minister on economic affairs since 1986. Until his appointment he was a professor of economics at the Economics and Political Science College and served on the board of the National Bank. He is married and has one son.

Al-Alfi Pledges 'Firm, Decisive Action'

NC1804161993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Speaking after assuming his post, new Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi said the upcoming plan of action is to ensure stability and security for citizens while taking a firm and decisive action against those who violate law and legitimacy. He said a comprehensive plan to implement this objective is currently being discussed. He said that during his meeting today with President Mubarak, he was directed to work for justice and legitimacy, to impose the rule of law, and to entrench the people's security and safety.

The interior minister urged the public to cooperate with security services, which he said help the people. He stressed that citizens have a major role in the fight against outlaws; namely, giving true information to the police. He said any violation of the law means obstruction of the march toward comprehensive development.

Position Change Explained

NC1904054993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2157 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper MAYU, mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, reports that major ministerial changes will take place in the future to complement the change that took place yesterday when Major General Hasan al-Alfi was named interior minister and Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali was appointed minister of state.

In its Monday issue, the weekly says these changes are aimed at boosting ministerial work, achieving harmony in the cabinet, and pooling all resources to solve the masses' problems and implement the development plan.

MAYU said new governors will be appointed in the next few days, including a new governor of Asyut, which became vacant after Maj. Gen. al-Alfi was appointed interior minister.

MAYU says that Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was relieved of his post as interior minister because of certain excesses. One of his latest excesses was to hold contacts out of his own volition with the so-called wise men's committee for contacts with extremist groups [lajnat al-hukama' lilwasatah ma' al-jama'at al- mutatarrifah]. Musa held these contacts without consulting the president or the prime minister. The paper says that high-level sources described the former minister's behavior in holding such contacts as deviation from the requirements of ministerial work and from the cabinet members' collective responsibility. These sources pointed out that recently it was realized that there was no clear strategy for carrying out security work, which affected police performance in certain governorates.

Sidqi Denies Government Contacts With Extremists

NC1804110893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has denied press reports that contacts have taken place between the government and the Interior Ministry and a number of extremists accused of committing terrorism. In a statement today, Dr. Sidqi said there is absolutely no truth to what has been published in this regard in ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine and AL-SHA'B newspaper and reported by some news agencies, affirming that these reports are totally unfounded, fabricated, and false.

Dr. Sidqi said: We will deal with the extremist elements with firmness and by the law, and there will be no leniency in dealing with what affects the state and society.

In statements he made to correspondents this morning following the swearing in of the two new ministers, the prime minister said: There can be no dialogue with the perpetrators of these crimes, who kill innocent people and undermine the country's interests.

Answering a question about reports that a committee made up of Islamic figures has met with the interior minister, he said: No compromise or understanding is acceptable regarding outlaws. These matters are the responsibility of investigators and the courts.

Dr. Sidqi praised the efforts of Islamic figures to project the tolerant image of Islam, which does not know violence or fanaticism.

Sudan

'Media Campaigns' Halted During Arab Ministers' Meeting

JN1804184993 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Sudan has declared an immediate one-week halt to retaliatory media campaigns in support of efforts aimed at clearing the Arab atmosphere of traces of hatred and hostility. This came in a Sudanese Foreign Ministry statement issued here today on the occasion of the Arab League foreign minister's council meeting in Cairo which will discuss among other things the issue of bolstering Arab solidarity and cementing cracks among the sisterly Arab states.

The statement said that while looking forward to positive results from this meeting, which will contribute to restoring the solidarity and unity of the Arab nation and enabling it face the overwhelming threats and challenges, Sudan hopes that everybody, both governments and the media, will uphold the unifying factors and renounce the causes of fragmentation and division.

The statement said that the Sudanese delegation to the foreign ministers' meeting will be committed to these principles in order to promote a spirit of reconciliation and solidarity.

Al-Bashir, Algerian Envoy Discuss Ties

EA1904104393 Khartoum SUNA in English 0918 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has confirmed while meeting the Algerian ambassador here Saturday [17 April] Sudan's keenness to promote and develop Sudanese-Algerian relations in the context of serving Arab and African issues.

Meanwhile, the Algerian ambassador to Sudan, al-Rashid Khidr, explained that he has briefed the RCC chairman on the efforts being exerted to normalise Sudanese-Algerian relations. He described the relations between the two countries as good and friendly, pointing out that the reasons of the tension in relations can be removed through serious negotiations between the leaderships in the two countries for the benefit of the two peoples.

Islamic Chief Opposes Western View of Islam

PM1904151293 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 17 Apr 93 pp 34-38

[Interview with Sudanese Islamic Movement leader Hasan al-Turabi by Guy Sorman in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Al-Turabi arrived wearing a white robe and turban, fragile and elegant, fluent in French and English, graduate in law from the universities of Paris and Oxford. Is this really the al-Turabi described by the Western press and governments as the ally of Saddam Husayn, the boss of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? Is al-Turabi schizophrenic, making some statements intended to reassure his Western guests and others intended for the Islamic militants? Or is it the West that is schizophrenic, projecting onto al-Turabi the fear of a vast Islamic terrorist plot? I put this question to al-Turabi. He did not abandon his smile.

"As soon as the Muslims return to their roots, their culture, their religion, the Western countries," he said, "see this as an attack on human rights, a regression, and describe us as terrorists. For instance, what is abnormal about the Sudanese Government restoring Islamic law, the shari'ah, in the place of the legal codes imposed on us by the British colonialists?"

For the Muslims, "it is simply a renaissance;" for the Western countries it is a regression and an aggression because "you apply your criteria, and your view of progress to the Muslim world: That is simply cultural imperialism." What about terrorism?

"That is a method invented by the Western countries," al-Turabi told me. "If some groups which claim to follow Islam practice it, it is because they learned it from Irish terrorists, the Italian Red Brigades, the Japanese Red Army, or the German Baader gang...."

Does Sudan run training camps for the Palestinian terrorists of the Hamas movement? The official answer is no....

Al-Turabi is an African; he is not an Arab and he protested the imperialism of the Saudis who "aspire to impose customs on the Africans"—for instance women's clothes—which belong to the Arab world but are foreign to Islam as such. The Islamic renaissance announced by Hasan al-Turabi is therefore neither a return to the past nor an alignment with the Saudi model, but incorporates cultural diversity and modernity.

"Nothing in the Prophet Muhammad's perfect and definitive message," he explained, "opposes modernism, technology, and science."

Let us accept provisionally with al-Turabi the failure of the attempt to graft Western models onto the Muslim world. How should the transition to the Islamic society take place, what would it be like, and who opposes it?

"The perverse alliance of the leaders of the Arab world and the Western governments."

The latter have an irrational fear of Islam and their ignorance and fear are maintained by the sovereigns and dictators of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco.

"The latter," al-Turabi explained, "convince the West that the Islamic movements are 'fundamentalist' and terrorist. Indeed Mubarak, Hassan II, and the Saudi monarch are not good Muslims: they are not qualified to judge what is Islamic and what is not."

Why are they not good Muslims?

"Their private life alone demonstrates their hypocrisy."

Al-Turabi distrusts the Islamic revolution because any revolution leads to the reverse of the objective set by the instigators—as in Iran—or because it provokes repression—as in Algeria. Iran is therefore not a model because "Islam in that country has been taken over by the Shi'ite clergy" and because it is "more concerned with its material interests than with the real Islamicization of society."

However, for al-Turabi, democracy is a good method of Islamicization.

"If the Muslims had the freedom to vote," he said, "they would carry the Islamic movements to power everywhere: the Algerian elections show that!" Unfortunately, in Algeria "the FIS leaders, who know little about Islam and are badly prepared for their responsibilities," al-Turabi said, "have not understood that they must first reach agreement with the French."

But let us talk about Sudan. Sudan is not a good example of the democratic method of transition to Islam recommended by al-Turabi! It was by a military coup that the regime officially became Islamic, at the end of a meticulous infiltration of the general staff by al-Turabi's movement. The latter justified it:

"Democracy in Sudan was artificial and the political parties, which have now been banned, were in fact the private property of a few big families."

Indeed, few people dispute this.

And is not the shari'ah, the Muslim law, which has such a bad reputation in the West, the most repressive aspect of an Islamic society? It arouses visions of severed hands and flagellation in the Western imagination. On this too, Hasan al-Turabi shows surprising moderation, almost dissidence compared with the Saudi or Iranian model. The shari'ah is primarily an internalized moral obligation which the state does not impose but which is imposed on the state, the state itself being subject to the shari'ah. Although some members of the Islamic movement, according to al-Turabi, do not understand this nature of the shari'ah, it is because they are "prisoners of their local culture or more frequently because they are ignorant." It is an ignorance which seems to affect the Algerian FIS leaders in particular. Or the Shiites who sentenced Salman Rushdie to death.... [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Envoy Denies Iraqi Allegations of Border Violations

LD1704112193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpt] United Nations, 17 Apr, KUNA—Kuwait strongly denied last night Iraqi allegations that it has violated the arms free zone between the two countries defined in UN Security Council Resolution 687, and said these allegations are no more than the latest of the Iraqi regime's continuing attempts to deflect attention from its intransigence over the implementation of Security Council resolutions pertaining to the war to liberate Kuwait.

Muhammad Abu Al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations, addressed a letter last night to the president of the Security Council, the Pakistani delegate, refuting the false Iraqi claims. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD1704200193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1637 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Apr (KUNA) Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived today on an official visit to the State of Kuwait, at the head of an official delegation, including Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtuchov, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, and a number of high-ranking officials.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, was at the head of those welcoming the Ukraine prime minister on his arrival.

Meets With Heir Apparent

LD1804124793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Leonid Kuchma, prime minister of the Republic of the Ukraine, and the delegation accompanying him at his office in Bayan Palace at 1030 this morning.

Talks between the two countries later began. The Kuwaiti side was led by Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and the Ukrainian side was led by Leonid Kuchma. [passage omitted]

Ways and means of developing cooperation between the two friendly countries and other issues of mutual concern were discussed during the talks.

Communique Issued

LD1804195793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The following is a press communique on the visit of his excellency the Ukrainian prime minister to the State of Kuwait:

At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, the prime minister of Ukraine, paid an official visit to the State of Kuwait 17-18 April 1993, leading an official delegation composed of a number of high-ranking officials in the Ukrainian Government. An official welcoming ceremony was held in honor of his excellency at Kuwait International Airport. His highness the heir apparent and prime minister was at the forefront of those attending the welcoming ceremony.

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, received the Ukrainian prime minister, who conveyed to his highness a written message from His Excellency President Leonid Kravchuk, president of friendly Ukraine, which included his friendly greetings and good wishes to his highness for health and happiness and the permanent prosperity and development of the Kuwaiti people, and the increased development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The message also contained an invitation to his highness the amir to visit Ukraine. His highness accepted the invitation and its date will be fixed later.

A joint meeting was held between the Kuwaiti side, chaired by his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and the Ukrainian side, chaired by his excellency the Ukrainian prime minister. The meeting was attended by a number of ministers and high-ranking officials from the two friendly countries.

The two sides reviewed biletaral relations and expressed their satisfaction with their continuous development in all spheres. They expressed their intentions to reinforce relations, especially in the sphere of economic and technical cooperation, in order to serve the interests of their two friendly peoples, and also to coordinate on topics of mutual interest which would guarantee peace and security in the international community.

The Kuwaiti side expressed its deep appreciation of and great gratitude for the principled position which Ukraine took in denouncing and condemning the unjust Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and its effective contribution and support for the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Kuwaiti side also expressed its thanks and appreciation for Ukraine's support for efforts exerted to release the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held by the Iraqi regime, and the efforts made within international circles to achieve the same.

The two sides reviewed the efforts being made to bring about Middle East peace and expressed their support for these efforts. They stressed the importance of reaching a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution for the Middle East problem, and in regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 242 and 338.

In their discussions of international issues, the two sides expressed their support for all efforts aimed at reinforcing stability and security throughout the world.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing consultations and exchanging visits between officials of the two countries on various levels.

Ukraine's prime minister expressed his deep thanks and great gratitude for the warmth accorded to him and his delegation, and he extended an invitation to His Highness Shaykh Sa'id al-Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, to visit Ukraine. His highness accepted the invitation with gratitude and the date of the visit is to be fixed at a time convenient to both sides.

Amir Declares 3 Days of Mourning for Turkey's Ozal

LD1804123093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A statement from the amir's court: In view of the death of the late President Turgut Ozal of Turkey, the amir's court has declared three days of mourning, beginning 17 April 1993, to indicate the appreciation of the Kuwaiti people for his courageous stand and support during the treacherous Iraqi invasion and as a way to share the sorrows of the fraternal Turkish people.

Oman

OAU Secretary General Departs Muscat After Visit

JN1704073493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0718 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, 17 Apr (WAKH)—OAU Secretary General Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim left Muscat this morning after a visit to Oman lasting several days. Dr. Salim met with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and held talks with senior Omani officials dealing with issues of mutual interest.

Qatar

State Minister Confers With British Defense Official

JN1904163493 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, April, 19 (GNA)—Qatari Minister of State for Defence Affairs and Deputy C-in-C [commander in chief] Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani met here today with Sir Alan Thomas, the head of Defence Export Services at the British Ministry of Defence, who is currently on a visit to Qatar.

Talks at the meeting dealt with military cooperation between Qatar and Britain.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Defense Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD1704203893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense of the Egyptian Arab Republic, arrived in Riyadh this evening on an official visit. He was received at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general.

He was also received by His Excellency 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant to the minister of defense and aviation for military affairs, and by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff. [passage omitted]

Meets Prince Sultan

LD1804142993 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 18, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, has highlighted the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"I would like to welcome my dear friend and colleague—the minister with whom we work together for the sake of the Arab and Muslim nation," Prince Sultan said following a meeting here yesterday with visiting Egyptian Minister of Defence General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi.

Asked about the Saudi-Egyptian coordination and cooperation in the field of joint military industrialization, Prince Sultan said "any industry in Egypt is actually a Saudi industry and any Saudi industry is an Egyptian one."

He underscored the importance of exchanging visits of Saudi and Egyptian officials and said visits of Egyptian officials to the Kingdom will further boost the existing fraternal bilateral relations.

Asked about issues slated to be discussed with General Tantawi, Prince Sultan said "there are no set priorities. We are proceeding on a defined path and engaged in a complimentary manner in each others' work and efforts."

In a similar statement, General Tantawi said his visit to the Kingdom comes in response to an invitation from Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

"It is also in line with the continuing contacts between the Kingdom and Egypt. We aspire to consolidate further our bilateral relations," he said.

General Tantawi pointed out that the recent visit of Major General Prince Mutib Bin Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the commander of King Khalid Military College, was primarily directed to strengthen cooperation between the Saudi National Guard and the Egyptian Armed Forces.

"A meaningful cooperation between the Kingdom and Egypt, will ensure development and progress of the Arab world," he said, adding Saudi-Egyptian cooperation constitutes a broad base for Arab cooperation.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt constitute the pillar of the Arab region and even more the pillar of the Middle East, he said.

King Fahd Sends Condolences on Death of Turkey's Ozal

LD1804135493 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 18, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a cable of condolences to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

"On behalf of the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to condole the death of Ozal," said the monarch in his cable to Demirel yesterday.

The monarch also sent yesterday a cable of condolences to acting Turkish President and Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Husamettin Cindoruk over the death of Ozal.

For their part, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard and Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, sent yesterday cables of condolences over the death of Ozal to Turkish Prime Minster Suleyman Demirel and Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Husamettin Cindoruk.

Minister Issues Statement on Citizens' Rights

LD1804141493 Riyadh SPA in English 1308 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Beirut, April 18, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, has reiterated the keenness of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz on meeting the requirements of the citizens.

The doors of King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdallah are always kept open before all citizens, he said in a press statement published here yesterday.

The existing close relations between the officials and citizens in the Kingdom, which are deep-rooted, habitual and traditional, will continue to grow further, he said.

It is the right of all citizens to have their rights and properties preserved and protected by the rulers, he said.

It is the duty of the officials to work sincerely for the sake of God, implement the rules of God, erase all kinds of injustices and treat the people equally, he added.

Prince Sultan reiterated the keenness of the state on enabling the citizens lead an honorable life.

He pointed out that the state in the Kingdom has been doing every thing possible to provide the citizens with housing units, schools, hospitals as well as to make available to them job and educational opportunities.

The Kingdom will adhere to the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah and ensure justice and equality among the citizens, he said.

United Arab Emirates

Bosnian President Departs; Foreign Minister Comments

JN1404125793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 14 Apr (WAKH)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic left al-Shariqah today after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he met with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic praised the UAE's efforts in support of the just cause of his country's people.

In a statement to WAKH before the departure of the Bosnian president, the Bosnian foreign minister hoped that the struggling people of Bosnia-Herzegovina would restore their legitimate rights through ending this inhuman farce.

The Bosnian foreign minister emphasized his country's desire to reach a peaceful solution. He said that his government signed the Vance-Owen agreement to implement what the United Nations agreed on. He added that the Serbs refused to sign this agreement, which again shows that they still did not negotiate to achieve a solution but to gain more time in order to achieve their ambitions in Bosnia-Herzegovina by annihilating, killing, and expelling the ones they could not annihilate

and obliterating and destroying all the accomplishments of consecutive generations throughout hundreds of years on the land of Bosnia.

Haris Silajdzic called on the international community to live up to its duty toward the shackled people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said that the international community refuses to take a decisive stand toward the Serb enemy which is annihilating an entire people deprived of their most basic human rights to self-defense.

The Bosnian foreign minister demanded world countries to take urgent and effective measures to stop continued inhuman Serb aggression on his country. He also stressed the need to lift the arms embargo on his country so that the Bosnians would be able to defend themselves. He noted that any third solution would be a continued endorsement of and participation in the heinous crimes perpetrated daily against Bosnia-Hercegovina, the like of which the world has been not witnessed since the World War II.

Ukrainian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive 16 Apr

JN1604094393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Apr (WAKH)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his current tour of the region's states.

During his visit to the UAE, the Ukrainian prime minister will hold talks with officials on bilateral issues, developments in the Middle East, and current international issues. He will also brief UAE officials on developments in the Ukraine and available investment fields. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Fifth Column' Causes Concern as Elections Approach

PM1904110993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Apr 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Yemen's Hot Democracy"]

[Text] Parliamentary elections in Yemen are approaching. The objective is to elect a parliament directly by the people in a step which will affect political and economic conditions not only in Yemen, but the Arab peninsula as a whole.

It is noted that Yemen is entering these elections with full confidence and under a national Constitution which permits party pluralism and freedom of expression despite all the domestic and foreign pressures opposed to these.

What distinguishes this Yemeni step and makes it important is its being the most important in the region as a whole, as well as the lack of similar experiments that can be copied or with which it can be compared.

True, Kuwait witnessed after its "liberation" a parliamentary election experiment last October which was characterized by freedom and lack of rigging. But the Kuwaiti experiment was full of loopholes and shortcomings. This is because the elections were confined to 7 percent of the population, and women and the second-class citizens who could not prove their existence in the country before 1920 did not participate in them.

But in Yemen all people are equal before the law, Yemeni women are entitled to vote like men, and every party or group is entitled to publish a newspaper or a magazine to express its view, to the extent that the number of publications has reached 142 dailies, weeklies, and monthlies.

This does not mean that the Yemeni democratic experiment has no shortcomings or defects. Naturally it is influenced by the tribal society dominating the country and the concepts and political and economic ideologies resulting from the partition stage that preceded unity. But it must be recorded for the Yemeni leadership that it made a promise and fulfilled it, contrary to all the expectations which see nothing for Yemen except backwardness and civil wars.

What worries all those who love Yemen most is the existence of a "fifth column" inside the country. It is trying to cast shadows of doubt on the present democratic experiment by causing explosions, which occur from time to time and tend to escalate as the parliamentary elections draws nearer. The objective is to give the impression that the country is unstable. There are elements who resort to undemocratic methods to express their differences with rival quarters.

Certainly the Yemeni people, who have achieved a miracle in a time dominated by separatist movements and the breaking up of states (like Yugoslavia), are aware of all the aspects of this question. They also know the foreign quarters which are behind it and the aims they are seeking to achieve.

Yemen has succeeded in passing all the difficult tests which it has experienced since the proclamation of unity and the end of partition. It has also surmounted many of the conspiracies hatched against it to starve it, bring it to its knees, and drown it in civil and tribal wars.

And certainly with their leadership's wisdom and their sons' awareness they will pass the democratic test successfully and offer to the Arab peninsula—and hence the Arab nation—a better model in this context.

Opposition Sources Report Disturbances, Arrests

12 Apr Coup Attempt, Executions

NC1704164193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Our private sources in Baghdad have reported that the regime launched a large-scale arrest and raid campaign in the capital on Monday [12 April] from 1730 to 0630 the following morning.

The sources said a major coup took place on that day and that former Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Shaykhali, Tal'at Slih, and Usamah al-Jabburi were arrested as a result. The regime executed these men 18 hours later. It also arrested 7,035 people. The sources added that fierce clashes erupted that night between the regime's henchmen and the opposition in al-Thawrah and in the al-Shu'lah area.

'Radical' Leadership Changes Expected

LD1604122693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1122 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Vienna, 16 Apr—Informed Iraqi sources here today expect radical changes to take place in the Iraqi leadership in the near future in an attempt to control the security and political tension and disturbances that prevail in Iraq now.

Iraqi opposition sources said the recent heightening in tension may be due to preparations for these changes, which could include the premiership and other senior posts in the government and the party. The sources predicted that current Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, would be the candidate for the post of prime minister to replace Hamza al-Zubaydi. They also predicted the dismissal of some prominent leaders like Tariq 'Aziz, Taha Yasin Ramadan, and 'Izzat al-Duri.

Iraqi opposition sources stressed that these predictions are being discussed at popular and official circles in Baghdad, and that changes in the leadership are not unlikely in light of recent developments. However, no official confirmation has been issued so far.

Numerous press reports have confirmed that there was a sharp dispute among members of the Iraqi president's family. Meanwhile, Saddam Husayn has started to tighten his control over Baghdad in anticipation of the breakout of a popular revolution or a coup attempt by the army.

Iraqi opposition sources also said that explosions were heard in Baghdad and its suburbs three days ago, including an explosion at the printing plant of the party organ AL-THAWRAH. This was reported by a spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an organization opposed to the regime in Baghdad.

Opposition Figure Interviewed

NC1704090893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Hani al-Fukayki, identified as deputy chairman of the Unified Iraqi National Congress Executive Committee, in London, by correspondent 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Hani al-Fukayki, welcome.

[Al-Fukayki] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There are reports that the Iraqi authorities launched an extensive campaign of executions and arrests against officials in the security agencies and the ruling Ba'th Party in the wake of recent widespread disturbances in Baghdad's Saddam Suburb. Can you tell us about the current situation inside Iraq?

[Al-Fukayki] As you and everyone else, particularly the Iraqi people, know this regime has no future. This regime, isolated from its people and other Arabs and ostracized regionally and internationally, has begun to feel the brunt of the popular domestic siege against it, particularly in the Armed Forces and ruling party ranks. The deteriorating economic situation, soaring prices, and laws and regulations that trample on the citizens' freedom, dignity, and livelihood have exacerbated the crisis to the point that matters erupted in Baghdad recently. The authorities have been carrying out armed clashes and extensive arrests in the city's al-Thawrah, al-Shu'lah, and al-Bayya' quarters since last Monday. The arrests affected certain party officials inside and outside Baghdad, in the southern cities, including al-Basrah, and Mosul in the north. The regime is dealing with these uprisings hysterically. Fighting is continuing in the southern marshlands, the outskirts of al- Nasiriyah, al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, in Baghdad itself, and Mosul. Of course we cannot say that these popular uprisings will lead to the regime's overthrow but they are an expression of a turbulent popular protest against this regime. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Hani al-Fukayki, you have called on the international community to put Saddam on trial as a war criminal for violating international peace and security by his war against Iran, his invasion of Kuwait, and for violating human rights inside Iraq. What has actually occurred in this connection?

[Al-Fukayki] The Unified Iraqi National Congress, in cooperation with broad popular circles, judicial Iraqi institutions, and Arab legal experts drew up a list of indictment against Saddam Husayn, which will be submitted to the Security Council, the United Nations, and Arab constitutional and legal institutions with a view to putting Saddam and a clique of some 20 other criminals on trial as war criminals who carried out an extermination policy against the Iraqi people, used poison gas,

employed selective murder against the Iraqi people, threatened regional peace and stability, and perpetrated various major crimes. [passage omitted]

Explosions at Ba'th Party Centers

LD1804182993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] There were explosions at several Iraqi Ba'th Party centers in Baghdad today. An informed source of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq announced this, adding: The resistance Islamic forces of Iraq also caused explosions at the centers of the Iraqi Ba'ath Party at Sakradah, al- Thawrah, Kazimiyah, and also 'Ali Gharbi in al-'Amarah and inflicted heavy damage on these centers.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi opposition member announced: Today, following a bomb explosion in the al-Suray Square in Baghdad, the big statue of Saddam standing at the center of the square was completely destroyed.

Foreign Minister Denies Reports on Baghdad Disturbances

JN1704183093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf denied in Cairo today the false rumors being disseminated by colonialist circles and their agents that Baghdad has recently witnessed disturbances, stressing that Iraq is more stable than ever and even more stable than Imbabah, a popular Cairo quarter, which has recently witnessed bloody clashes between extremists and Egyptian security forces. He said that these false rumors are intended to activate U.S. and British agents abroad. The Iraqi foreign minister also expressed Iraq's readiness to hold a dialogue with any Arab country to serve the Arab nation's interests, but said that Iraq would not waste time with those who want to serve the foreigners. He urged the Arab countries to break the blockade imposed on Iraq by the Security Council since August 1990. The Iraqi foreign minister arrived in Cairo today to take part in the Arab League Ministerial Council's 99th session, which will open on 18 April.

Assembly Speaker Stresses Support for Leadership

JN1804075693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has affirmed that the Iraqi people are rallying around their wise leadership and are firmly determined to counter the difficulties and achieve their noble objectives on both the national and pan-Arab levels.

At a news conference in New Delhi, where he is leading a parliamentary delegation to the 89th international parliamentary conference, the National Assembly speaker said that fateful pan-Arab issues are the cornerstone of Iraq's policy.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih focused on the negative effects of the continued blockade imposed on Iraq and the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade.

The National Assembly speaker said that the imposition of air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq by the United States, Britain, and France constitute a threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and stability.

In response to a question on Iraq's relations with the United States, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said: Before the war, the Iraqis had no hostile feelings or hatred toward the United States. However, the Bush administration began the aggression and imposed the blockade on Iraq. If the United States ceases its hostility toward Iraq, the relations of friendship between Iraq and the United States will return to their former state.

Reportage on Military Confrontation With U.S.

Cluster Bombs Kill Boy 16 Apr

JN1604174293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Unexploded cluster bombs detonated this evening in the vicinity of Saddam Dam in Ninawa Governorate leaving an eight-year-old boy martyred and his sister seriously injured.

The bombs that exploded today are from among those that were dropped by U.S. enemy aircraft at Saddam Dam last week.

When the bombs detonated, the area was packed with families relaxing amid the spring greenery.

U.S. Plane Fires Missile 18 Apr

JN1804162093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1605 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

At a time when the Civil Defense men in the Ninawa Governorate are continuing to defuse and detonate the cluster bombs that hostile U.S. planes dropped on the tourist area around Saddam Dam, which two days ago martyred an eight-year-old child and severely wounded his 10-year-old sister, the enemies carried out another provocative act.

At 1305 [0905 GMT] today, Sunday, 18 April 1993, two U.S. planes fired a missile at an air defense position located 55 km south of the city of Mosul. This hostile, provocative act wounded three brave soldiers.

U.S. 'Premeditated Intentions' Revealed

JN1804165893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—[passage omitted] The INA correspondent in the city of Mosul, 400 km north of Baghdad, has affirmed that the provocative behavior of the U.S. planes reveals the U.S. military command's premeditated intentions.

In a report this evening, the correspondent explained that the position targeted by the two U.S. planes lies more than 22 km south of the 36th parallel.

'Aziz Condemns 'Aggression'

JN1904112393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has strongly condemned the acts of aggression committed by U.S. aircraft against Iraqi positions on 9 and 18 April.

In a statement to INA today, the deputy prime minister said: Iraq declared a goodwill cease-fire initiative on 19 January. Out of its commitment to this initiative, Iraqi military authorities have not conducted any activity to target U.S. aircraft. Therefore, the two attacks carried out by U.S. aircraft have no military justification whatsoever. The U.S. planes were not threatened so as to open fire on our military locations on 9 and 18 April. These two attacks can only be described as arrogant acts of aggression.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Officials of the U.S. Administration should not misinterpret Iraq's position, which has been characterized by discretion and self-restraint. The main aim behind Iraq's position is to create appropriate circumstances to reveal facts to the international community, which has been the victim of the biggest campaign of disinformation and reshuffling of cards by the former U.S. Administration.

He added: If some officials of the new U.S. Administration are under the illusion that the policy of arrogance and threats can succeed with Iraq, then they should keep in mind that the former administration practiced such a policy to the hilt and failed miserably. Iraq continues to adhere to its rights and such attempts will not terrify it, he added.

The deputy prime minister said: Iraq has repeatedly emphasized that the decision banning flights in the north and south, which was imposed by the United States in cooperation with Britain and France, was an illegitimate decision that was not based on any UN resolution. These hostile and arrogant actions by U.S. aircraft confirm what we have always said; namely, this ban was imposed for hostile and colonialist political reasons.

Tariq 'Aziz called on the international community to be alert to these arrogant American actions and to condemn and prevent them from recurring.

Regarding the Security Council resolutions and the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, the deputy prime minister said Iraq has called for constructive dialogue and an objective review of what was implemented of the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, but this call has been ignored. The Security Council member states, he added, should shoulder their responsibilities and honor their commitments toward Iraq in accordance with the UN Charter and the provisions of Resolution 687 itself. They should also respond to Iraq's sincere call, and consequently work seriously to lift the unjust embargo imposed on the people of Iraq for three years.

Papers Denounce Action

JN1904084093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Today's papers denounce the fresh U.S. provocative, criminal aggression against Iraq.

The papers assert that the successive acts of aggression betray the mentality of those behind them and their abandonment of all moral principles to achieve peace on the basis of dialogue and mutual interests.

In an article appearing today, AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Apparently, the new U.S. Administration does not want to heed the voice of reason with regard to its stands and aggressive conduct toward Iraq. The paper notes that the unjustified insistence on aggression exposes the evil intentions of U.S. policymakers. Pursuing the aggressive approach of the administration of depraved Bush will only strengthen Iraq's steadfastness and resolve to face aggression until all its vindictive schemes against the Iraqi people are defeated and victory is achieved. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, also denounces the U.S. aggressive policy based on arrogance and disdain, instead of adopting the logic of serious, responsible dialogue made possible when Iraq launched its peace initiative on 19 January.

The paper adds that the new U.S. claims and fabrications are baseless, and that acts of aggression are being perpetrated in a provocative, deliberate manner to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and terrify its people.

The paper says, moreover, that the sons of the Iraqi people and their Armed Forces have grown accustomed to the colonialists' methods after the 30-state aggression, and that the continuation of this aggressive, provocative conduct will not weaken them. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Iraqi people are too strong to be affected by such cowardly acts, affirming that their national unity will retain its strength and pride thanks to its great leader, Saddam Husayn, and his great love for his unyielding people. [passage omitted]

In its article, AL-'IRAQ says that the fresh U.S. aggression is a blatant violation of the simplest rules of international relations and reflects the U.S. disregard for international norms and laws.

The paper adds that the new criminal aggression against Iraq is evidence of U.S. insistence on pursuing an aggressive approach and controlling other nations. It also shows the weakness of the Security Council, its double standards, and that it is under complete U.S. control.

The paper affirms that the people of Iraq, who stand united behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will always remain victorious and will not be terrified by provocative, aggressive acts planned by the enemies. [passage omitted]

'First Part' of Saddam Speech on al-Faw Liberation

JN1804195493

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic, in a "linkup with Iraqi Television, Kurdish radio, and the Voice of Youth from Dar al-Salam," at 1710 GMT carries a 105-minute "first part" of President Saddam Husayn's recorded address during his visit to al-Faw and his reception of "his brave military commanders and some officials who had the honor of taking part in the blessed Ramadan operation to liberate al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory."

The larger part of the address is in the Iraqi dialect, and many phrases are very difficult to understand. Reception is fair to poor.

At 1710 GMT, President Saddam begins his speech by greeting the al-Faw people and stressing the "importance of al-Faw in Iraq's history." He then speaks in great detail about the al-Faw battles against the "Iranian enemy" and says that they were a "great epic" and that the people carried out the mission in the best way possible. He says: "We were in need of victory to stress our humanity," that "we built our relationship with our people on facts," and that we have to reveal everything to our people. He then hails the commanders and soldiers who defended their country and says that everyone was confident that al-Faw would be retaken.

Turning to the occupation of al-Faw by the Iranian "enemy," President Saddam Husayn says that there were losses on both sides and that no side had enough power to decide the situation. He then speaks in detail about the efforts to train and reorganize the military formations and units in order to carry out the counterattack. He says that approximately 14 regiments were formed and other ones were reinforced. Following the occupation of al-Faw, he says, the Iranians told the Gulf states that Iran and these states "became neighbors" as part of their propaganda campaign. He then relates how the Iraqi forces and people were determined to regain al-Faw and how 96 brigades were reorganized and trained. As a result, he says, "the enemy raised the slogan that 1987 was the year of decisiveness" and began its offensives against the Iraqi forces until "fire ceased on 27 April". Several military commanders also spoke about the battles in al-Faw.

BABIL Reiterates 'Determination To Liberate Kuwait'

JN1704132593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] In today's issue, the Iraqi newspaper BABIL links the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the liberation of al-Faw from Iranian occupation with Iraq's determination to liberate Kuwait. In a banner headline on its front page the paper says: "Al-Faw, Kuwait, Lasting Liberation, God Willing." The paper continues to refer to Kuwait as a governorate.

Kurdish Radio Says Iranian Forces Shell Areas

NC1904165993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] This morning Iranian forces opened concentrated artillery fire at border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan. The fire targeted areas where the parties of Iranian Kordestan are headquartered and areas inhabited by the displaced of Iranian Kordestan in Bolah, (Hinzeh), Suradi, (Qarnaqah), and (Kisrashan).

There have been no immediate reports on casualties resulting from the Iranian bombardment.

This Iranian action is flagrant interference in Iraqi Kurdistan and a violation of international norms and resolutions.

Car Bomb Damages Workers Association in Dahuk 15 Apr

NC1604173693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] A car bomb exploded yesterday in Dahuk. The explosion, which took place in the parking lot of the Workers and Peasants Association, caused extensive damage to the association building.

Reportage on Peace Talks Postponement, Reaction

Request To Delay Talks Denied

TA1704141793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Israel will not respond to the Palestinian demand to postpone the Washington talks until they receive further clarifications from the United States, as long as the Arab foreign ministers' conference continues in Damascus. This was announced by the prime minister's media adviser in Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's aide pointed out that Israel has not been officially approached on the matter of postponement. He said that Israel still hopes the Palestinians will come to the talks on time. [passage omitted on related foreign reports]

Talks To Be Delayed

TA1704173793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] A top Israeli official has said he believes the peace talks will be delayed by several days. The source said that while the Americans are blaming the delay on the Arab delegations, Washington does not want to worsen the atmosphere for talks and will not take any steps against the Arab parties over the matter.

Rabin Orders Departure Postponed

TA1704201093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The Israeli negotiating delegations will not leave tomorrow for the next round of Washington peace talks. A statement issued tonight by the prime minister's bureau announces that the delegations' departure is being delayed on Prime Minister Rabin's instructions.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the date of the delegations' departure will be apparently decided tomorrow.

Damascus Conference Disappointing

TA1804045793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Report by Jack Katzenell—live]

[Text] The three Israeli negotiating teams were to have left for Washington this evening, but last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided to postpone their departure. Informed sources in Jerusalem predict that the delay will be for a few days at least.

The prime minister has not yet responded to the Palestinians' refusal to show up in Washington on the 20th, nor to the report that the Arab countries refuse to come without the Palestinians. A source close to the prime minister said the reports from Damascus have been confused and contradictory and Rabin would not make a public response until an official announcement is issued in Damascus, and that is not expected until tomorrow. However, Israel is certainly disappointed with the developments of the Damascus conference. First of all, Israel and the United States have all along expressed optimism and even confidence that the Palestinians would, in the end, decide to attend the talks on schedule.

A hint of Israel's disappointment came last night from an official in Jerusalem who said: Yesterday's attempt to break into the home of Faysal al-Husayni is yet another indication of the divisions in the Palestinian camp, and it is these divisions which are holding up the peace process. Security around Faysal al- Husayn's house has been stepped up.

Israel is also disappointed because all the signs were that even if the Palestinians refuse to attend, the Arab countries would not stay away. In other words, they would not allow issues like the expulsion of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to determine their policy on the peace negotiations. Israel hoped that even if the autonomy talks were delayed for a while it would be possible to press ahead with the peace negotiations with Syria. Now, it appears that the Palestinians have been able to rally a much greater degree of solidarity from the Arab governments then was expected.

The prime minister's media adviser, Gad Ben-Ari, said last night that a decision would be taken today on when the Israeli delegation will leave for Washington. The decision will be made in the light of developments.

Peres Hopes Peace Talks Resume

TA1804053693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Tzvi Lidar on 18 April—recorded]

[Text] [Lidar] We have said many times that the Palestinians do not miss a single opportunity to miss an opportunity. Do you think that this is the case this time too with their decision not to attend the Washington talks on the date fixed?

[Peres] I regret the delay, but it still does not mean the negotiations are over. It is simply a delay.

[Lidar] In other words, it is not a critical delay?

[Peres] What they did is grave, but in my view it does not mean the negotiations have ceased.

[Lidar] Why is it grave then?

[Peres] Because the date was agreed upon, because excuses can be found each time to put off the talks. These negotiations have to have continuity and a certain dynamics.

[Lidar] Does it not show that they have strong nerves and are ready to suffer, to maneuver?

[Peres] In negotiations, the aim is not to show strong nerves. The aim of negotiations is to achieve peace. Everything has to be judged according to how far from or close we are to the achievement of the main target. I do not think that, in general, negotiations are an act. They constitute an endeavor. Everything that brings us closer to peace must be welcomed, and everything that drives us further away from that aim must be regretted.

[Lidar] One of the Palestinian demands, which we heard from al-Husayni last night, is to cancel the closure of the territories as a condition to holding the negotiations. Is that acceptable or possible?

[Peres] I think that Israel has said that before the negotiations start it does not see any need for, or logic in, making further gestures. The closure is not a policy. It is meant to prevent knifings; and as long as there is no other answer to that grave phenomenon, that logic remains valid. The government is also doing all it can to alleviate the situation in the territories and the condition of the inhabitants there by increasing budget allocations there and by cautiously expanding the issuance of permits to work in Israel.

[Lidar] How long can the closure continue in its present form?

[Peres] I will express my view in the cabinet.

[Lidar] Are you not prepared to do it this morning?

[Peres] No.

[Lidar] Then, how do you view the possibility of a resumption of the talks? Will they take place in another week?

[Peres] I certainly hope so, but nobody can make a commitment on that. The decision to put them off for a week also came as a surprise. As you know, the United States was very optimistic. The decision might also be due to internal disputes among the Arabs. I very much hope that the negotiations will be resumed in another week.

Delay 'Slap in the Face' of Christopher

TA1804090893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Dan Avidan, Mikhal Sela', and Drora Perl]

[Excerpts] Over the past several days, members of the Palestinian delegation have been under heavy pressure from threats against their and their families' lives aimed at preventing them from returning to the negotiations. Over the weekend, unidentified persons broke into Faysal al-Husayni's home and explicitly threatened that if he attends the talks his family will be hurt. On 15 April, unidentified persons broke into the home of delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat in Jericho and threatened his wife that they would kill him if the delegation does not immediately quit the political negotiations. A day before, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] published a leaflet in the territories in which it threatened the lives of the Palestinian delegates if they return to the talks with Israel before all the deportees have been returned. Sources in the territories maintain that the fact that Faysal al-Husayni neither returned to Jerusalem from Cairo nor attended the Damascus Arab foreign ministers' talks is related to these threats against the members of the delegation.

Last night, al-Husayni denied the report that his home had been broken into, but authoritative sources confirmed it, saying that the defense establishment takes a grave view of the break-in and the threats accompanying it, although al-Husayni has not filed a complaint with the police.

Following the Palestinian announcement that they will not attend the 20 April talks in Washington, political sources in Jerusalem last night estimated that the peace talks will be delayed by at least a week. Prime Minister Rabin last night ordered the Israeli delegations to postpone their departure for Washington until the situation is clarified. Originally, the delegations were supposed to leave this evening.

Political sources in Jerusalem last night expressed their grave concern over the increasing threats of murder leveled at the members of the Palestinian delegation. According to the sources, the threats not only jeopardize the resumption of the peace talks but also put at risk the entire peace process with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

According to reports reaching Jerusalem, the decision to delay the Palestinians' departure was made by Yasir 'Arafat. Sources in Jerusalem believe that 'Arafat made the move to prove to the Americans that he is "the boss" of the Palestinians and, at the same time, to dwarf al-Husayni's status. Some in the PLO apparently fear the rise in al-Husayni's status once he officially joins the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Senior Jerusalem sources last night described the American failure to convene the talks at their will as a "slap in the face" to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his men. The sources added that they believe the Americans will go on with their efforts to convene the talks as soon as possible. At the same time, the sources noted they fear that if these efforts fail, the Americans will turn their backs on the entire peace process and drop their intention to be an "active partner" in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

'No Reason' Talks Cannot Be Resumed

TA1804101193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the negotiating team with

Syria, by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, in Tel Aviv, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Is the postponement a blow to the talks?

[Rabinovich] No, I think the word "blow" is too dramatic, but it is an undesirable development. I think that in such a complex and delicate process, decisions on dates and work habits call for complex contacts and a great deal of mutual trust. Any delay or failure to stand by agreements, as is the case here, does not help.

[Raz] Does it not prove, however, that the Palestinians control the peace process and the Arab world? If they do not come, then the others do not come.

[Rabinovich] No, I would definitely not say they control things. I think the move is an outcome of intra-Palestinian and intra-Arab politics. It is clear to me that we will have to ask ourselves at some point questions about the deeper significance of it, but everything in good time. I think first priority must be given now to not harming the process, to bringing about a resumption of the talks. Questions of the type you asked me—not only we but also the Americans will ask themselves later.

[Raz] When do you think the talks will be renewed?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to speculate. It must be based on real information, so it is worthwhile waiting a day or two, and then discussing it.

[Raz] But is it clear to you that the talks will be resumed?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to speak in terms like "clear," but I think there is no reason for them not to resume.

Cabinet Briefed on Delay

TA1804152093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The cabinet was briefed today about the Arabs' intention to resume the peace talks only on 27 April. Cabinet ministers said there is no room for additional Israeli concessions in order to bring the Palestinians to the talks. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefly referred to the political issue in today's cabinet session. He told the ministers about the intention to postpone the opening of the talks by one week, saying: It is the Palestinians' fault. I hope they are not entertaining any illusion that we will accede to talk to Tunis because of this delay. We have no intention to change what was agreed with the Americans, he said.

Emerging from the meeting, Minister Moshe Shahal said that there is no room for additional steps or gestures on the part of Israel to resume the talks.

[Shahal] In my opinion, Israel has done everything it had to do. I think the reasons for the postponement of the Arabs' reporting to the talks are unrelated to Israel.

[Gutman] The ministers were unanimous that the postponement stems from intra-Arab tensions, rather than from any pertinent reasons. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel will agree to come to the talks even one week later, but stressed that gestures can only be discussed around the negotiating table.

[Peres] Negotiations on the negotiations are uncalled for. Once the negotiations open, each side may put any issue on the agenda.

[Gutman] Thus, Israel has come to terms with the fact that the peace talks will open only on 27 April. Although the opening has been delayed by only one week, it remains to be seen whether the successful Palestinian show of muscle will have an impact on the future of the peace talks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 18 April adds that "the ministers were briefed that merchants and businessmen from the territories over the age of 50 would be permitted to enter Israel without any restrictions or quotas, on condition that they have security permits.

["The ministers learned that up till now, approximately 9,000 permits to work in Israel had been issued to residents of the territories. The permits were mostly for agricultural jobs, as well as for several hundred employees of East Jerusalem hotels.

["Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the cabinet did not authorize the employment of additional workers in construction, and their number remains approximately 3,000—the same figure set last week.

["The ministers were also told that work had begun on several projects at a cost of 200 million shekels. These include road paving, construction of schoolrooms, and sewage systems."]

Rubinstein Comments

TA1904063293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Telephone Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you, Mr. Rubinstein.

[Rubinstein] Good morning.

[Friedman] Can you tell us your assessment regarding the date on which the talks will resume?

[Rubinstein] I do not think I can give any assessment beyond what has already been said. Both we and the

other sides involved in this issue were very optimistic about resuming the talks this week. These assessments proved incorrect, as is well known. By the end of the day we will be wiser, because by then the Arab sides will have made a decision. I must say, however, that we want to resume the talks. In my opinion, the Arabs must ask themselves what is the alternative. Each side has its own problems. There are difficulties; there is terrorism—in this context we need only recall yesterday's murder of an Israeli lawyer in Gaza. There are indeed many problems. The bottom line, however, is this: What alternative is there to negotiations for advancing peace?

[Friedman] One gets the feeling that everything is up to the Arabs. They convene, decide when to start the negotiations, and it is taken for granted that Israel will appear.

[Rubinstein] We are not puppets on a string. We are interested in conducting negotiations. We will find the right date for the talks. There were already cases in the past in which timetables were changed. We take a grave view of these postponements, both in terms of basic norms of behavior and of international behavior vis-a-vis the inviting parties and in terms of peace itself. We will consider each issue independently, however.

[Dan] Are you not concerned about a possible loss of momentum or about the Americans losing interest?

[Rubinstein] The fact is that there can be a change of emphasis. After all, the Americans have many pending issues on the international agenda, such as Bosnia, Somalia, Russia, and other places. The Middle East issue, however, is a long-standing affair with which the international community has always been occupied in one way or another. This complaint, however, should be addressed not so much to us as to the Arabs and especially the Palestinians, who are delaying the process. They must ask themselves whether this delay is improving or worsening their situation. In our opinion, it is definitely worsening their situation because the Palestinians have more to gain by peace than anybody else. After all, at present they are the only party that does not have any form of self- government, and now, for the first time, they are being offered fair interim arrangements for self-government.

[Friedman] Mr. Rubinstein, are you worried about the fact that the Arab states are being dragged along behind the sanctions and procrastination of the Palestinians, whereas hitherto it appeared as though it was the Palestinians who were influenced by Syrian and Jordanian pressure?

[Rubinstein] We could call this phenomenon the power of the weak party. The weak party is demanding to be treated seriously, whereas the strong parties do not want to be accused of acting according to their own interests while ignoring those of the weak party. This is certainly a negative phenomenon which is causing a delay.

[Dan] Beyond this delay, however, does this new recognition that the Arab side cannot be divided anymore, that the Palestinians can impose a uniform position on the entire Arab world not make our negotiations with the Palestinians more difficult?

[Rubinstein] First, the phenomenon of coordination between parties is not new. Second, I do not want to hazard any long-term predictions in the international relations arena. A rope can be stretched only so much. If the Syrians, for example, at some point decide that they are sick and tired of this state of affairs, they can change their view. Consequently, this unified position is not a law of nature. The purpose of all the sides should be to return to the negotiating table. We cannot determine the internal moves within the Arab world; we can view them and analyze them, but they are beyond our control. What we do know is, first, how to clearly express our position—which is a strong desire to return to the talks while safeguarding our interests. The second thing is that under the circumstances prevailing in the Middle East, there is no alternative to negotiations, and this is what we are constantly saying.

[Friedman] Mr. Rubinstein, you will apparently celebrate Independence Day [26 April] here in Israel. Will you also be here on 1 May?

[Rubinstein] First, I will be only too happy to celebrate Independence Day in Israel, the issue of the peace negotiations aside. Naturally, I regret the delay in the negotiations. Permit me to make two more observations before we end the interview. The first is related to the Palestinians. One of the more unfortunate things in all the moves regarding this issue is the message sent by the Palestinian negotiators and other leaders to the population in the Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Throughout this period we have been hearing a bleak message to the effect that no proposals have been raised, that nothing has happened or will happen. This naturally creates a bad mood in the territories which in turn projects back on the Palestinian delegation. If I could offer advice to our Palestinian colleagues—although it is not our duty to do so—I would tell them that they should reveal what proposals have been raised. I think that this would improve the general mood. This is the first thing....

[Friedman, interrupting] Unfortunately, our time is up. Thank you very much.

Rabinovich Discusses Syrian Talks Policy

TA1804162193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Pnina Bat-Tzvi, on 18 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Bat-Tzvi] Sir, would it be right to say that by agreeing to a delay in the resumption

of the peace talks Syria gave in to the Palestinians' unequivocal position or does this decision serve some other objective independent of the Palestinians?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think we are witnessing a Machiavellian Syrian design to have a failure of the talks with the Palestinians play into their hands. However, I think we are witnessing a complex Syrian game vis-a-vis the Americans. Loosely translated, this game is: We, the Syrians, are prepared to deliver the goods, so to speak—to exert pressure, report to the talks ourselves, or bring the Palestinians—if you make it worth our while; in other words, if you satisfy us with regard to the Golan Heights.

Seeing that this is not what is at stake now, I think the Syrians are signalling to the Americans that since they are not satisfied, at this stage they are not prepared to invest or waste the political credit they enjoy with the Palestinians.

[Bat-Tzvi] Are you saying that Faysal al-Husayni called the shots in the talks at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think he did. However, if we look at the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and at Faysal al-Husayni's partners—if they can be called that—in the delegation who were not thrilled about the possibility of him getting privileged status, I think a coalition emerged which contributed to the failure of the talks. Also, there are objective difficulties. After all, the Palestinian public is going through some difficult times from its own point of view. [passage omitted]

[Bat-Tzvi] Prof. Rabinovich, you were quoted in today's HA'ARETZ as saying that the postponement of the talks will only intensify Israel's demand to reach a separate peace agreement with the Syrians that stands on its own feet—I think this is how Rabin phrases it. In other words, Israel will benefit by this delay.

[Rabinovich] First, we do not use the term separate peace, but we use the term standing on one's own two feet. We have been saying for quite some time that we have a real problem with the fact that although we are negotiating with Syria, which is a sovereign state, the negotiations are not an impermeable framework. Outside elements, in this case the Palestinians, have some sort of veto rights and this creates a problem vis-a-vis Syria as a negotiating partner. Hence, in view of Israel's demand for a self-contained agreement, the Syrian capitulation—if we may call it that—to Palestinian pressure indeed serves this Israeli argument. [passage omitted]

'Full Withdrawal' Required

TA1904080693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met separately yesterday with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, who came to Jerusalem for consultations in anticipation of the resumption of the peace talks.

It has been learned that, contrary to his previous position, the prime minister is now leaning toward focusing efforts on the Palestinian track rather than on the talks with Syria. Rabin believes that there is no longer a chance of securing a separate arrangement with Syria and that, consequently, Israel should strive for a comprehensive arrangement on the two main tracks: with the Palestinians and the Syrians.

Another aspect discerned in the last few days is that the prime minister has reached the conclusion that it will be impossible to reach an arrangement with Syria without ceding all of the Golan Heights, including the removal of all the settlements. The Syrians made this position clear in their contacts with the Americans, who relayed these clarifications to Jerusalem.

This is the reason for Rabin's growing conviction that Israel must secure an interim arrangement with the Palestinians that does not entail ceding territories.

Our correspondent points out that over the last few days, Rabin has come to realize that it will be impossible to separate the tracks in the negotiations with the Arabs and the Palestinians because the structure of the negotiations set at the Madrid conference compels the Arabs to conduct the talks in parallel.

Moreover, the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo and Damascus constitute irrevocable proof that Israel will be unable to attain separate agreements with any side whatsoever.

All the talk in recent months about "Syria first"—according to which an agreement with Syria would eliminate the obstacles with the other parties—has been proved wrong. Over the weekend it became clear once again that the Palestinians can impose a unanimous position on all the negotiating sides.

[A report on pages 1 and 6 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 19 April adds: "It was learned yesterday that Israeli political elements were told by U.S. sources that the Syrians would have been prepared to report to the talks on 20 April if Israel had announced its willingness to recognize Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The Syrians said that if Israel were to announce its intention to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights—even if this were done in stages at predetermined intervals—at the upcoming round of talks, Syria would come to the negotiating table on 20 April, which might have forced the Palestinians to report to the talks on schedule. Israel rejected this demand, and that is why the Syrians announced that they would support the Palestinians' appeal to postpone the negotiations by a few days. This was also the reason for the harsh telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Syrian Foreign Minister

Faruq al- Shar', in which the former said the Syrians were reneging on agreements made with them.

["An Israeli source said it sounds rather preposterous to think the Syrians believe Israel would have agreed to cede all of the Golan Heights to prevent a delay of one or two weeks in the talks."]

Cabinet To Continue Closure of Territories

TA1804072793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The government has decided to continue the closure of the territories and at the same time to increase the number of people from the territories permitted to work inside the Green Line. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to one evaluation, the number of Arabs allowed to work here will reach 10,000.

At the outset of the cabinet meeting, the prime minister reported his decision to delay the departure of the Israeli delegations to the peace negotiations and praised the United States and Egypt for their positions on the negotiations. This was done in the first half of the cabinet meeting, which is being held in two parts today.

The ministers are now leaving to participate in Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, and the cabinet meeting will be resumed in the afternoon.

In reference to the closure, Police Commissioner Rafi Peled is due to report on a sharp decline in crimes against property since the closure was imposed.

Police Prepare To 'Supervise' Arab Entry

TA1804103793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said that the closure on the territories caused an almost 30 percent decline in crimes against property. The number of car thefts in Jerusalem dropped by 40 percent compared with the two weeks before the closure. He said the closure did not affect the drug trade and it is difficult to determine its impact on grave crimes.

Commissioner Peled said the police are now preparing for a series of steps to be taken when the closure is lifted to supervise the inhabitants of the territories and their entry into Israel, which will permit a lowering of the crime rate. Commissioner Peled said the police and the other security forces are preparing for the possibility of terror in the territories and in Israel.

Sources Satisfied With Attack on PFLP Head

TA1804074993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, and Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] The car of Samir Suwaydan, commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in south Lebanon, was ambushed on 16 April near the village of Yatar, some 2 km north of the security zone. Suwaydan's wife and daughter were killed in the attack which, according to Lebanese sources, was perpetrated by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. There have been contradictory reports regarding the fate of Suwaydan himself. [passage omitted]

A senior source at the IDF's Northern Command said last night that he anticipates an escalation in incidents along the northern border following the assassination attempt on Suwaydan. The military source believes that terror organizations might attempt to retaliate by terror attacks and probably by firing katyusha rockets at the border area. [passage omitted]

Official Israeli sources last night refused to refer to the question of whether an IDF unit was indeed involved in the attack. Speaking off the record however, senior Jerusalem sources expressed satisfaction over the assassination attempt. The sources said that Suwaydan's hands are "covered with the blood of many Israelis." They said that he had been targeted by the security forces for many years but had always managed to escape.

The sources said that even if in the short run the attack might heat up the border and encourage terror organizations to carry out attacks in the security zone and along the northern border, the assassination attempt might destabilize the feeling of security of the terrorists' leaders. They said that in the long run, this could weaken terror organizations in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Murder of Lawyer 'Ketaliation'

TA1804201293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [PFLP] Red Eagle squad has assumed responsibility for the murder of the Israeli lawyer today. The sources said that the murder came in retaliation for the attack in south Lebanon on Samir Suwaydan and his family.

Lawyer Worked for EC-Affiliate

TA1804163693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] A 30-year-old Israeli lawyer was murdered in the Gaza Strip today. The victim came from central Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two terrorists attacked the man this afternoon while he was at a law

office near the policemen's dormitories on Gaza beach, not far from the town's military court. The lawyer was attacked and seriously injured by axe blows and was then stabbed and shot with a Kalashnikov rifle.

An Army doctor summoned to the scene by one of the office workers administered first aid, but was unable to save the victim's life.

The lawyer served as legal adviser for Cooperative Development, a loan development society affiliated with the EC, which helped Palestinians in the territories. Ten of the society's employees, who were in the office at the time of the murder, begged the terrorists not to kill the man; however, the two assailants ignored their appeal and then fired two warning shots before fleeing.

The security forces have closed off the area and launched a manhunt after the two murderers.

Herzog Condoles on Turkish President's Death

TA1804122193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has sent his condolences to the acting Turkish president over the sudden death of President Turgut Ozal. In his cable, President Herzog wrote that Ozal had made a historic contribution to his country and could have played a central role in establishing peace in the Middle East.

Paper Finds Rabin-Mubarak Summit 'Predictable'

TA1504110593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Foretold Summit"]

[Text] Nothing is more foreseeable and predictable than encounters between two pragmatic leaders devoid of vision and lacking a sense of drama, such as Yitzhaq Rabin and Husni Mubarak. For Rabin, Mubarak is necessary comic and theatrical relief en route to the truly important matters on the political agenda. Mubarak consented to meet with Rabin in order to signal to the Arab world that he is still in the picture and so as not to lose Egypt's hegemony in the context of future changes in the Middle East. Rabin and Mubarak know perfectly well why they are usually reluctant to meet and why they keep their distance: Neither is a leader known for dramatic gestures, neither has the charisma of Begin or al-Sadat, and each meeting they hold is inherently disappointing. No one—and certainly not these two, for whom even a warm handshake is a major effort—expects a Rabin-Mubarak meeting to achieve anything beyond the dusting off of an old peace accord and a reminder to the two nations that they are no longer at war.

Yesterday's summit in Ismailia was one big yawn for the media and a review of the predictable and expected as far as the leaders were concerned. No one pressured, no one was pressured, there was—what else?—good atmosphere, and the talks were constructive. These days, Mubarak's major problems are inside his country. So are Rabin's. Neither leader is emotional about the closure, the deportations, detentions, and breaking bones. Yet while a day without an assassination attempt is an achievement for Mubarak, Rabin is working against a huge hourglass showing that his time is running out. It is up to Rabin to make gestures, initiate dramatic unilateral moves, prod the Syrian president, and listen to the Palestinians. Instead of making a dramatic move that, in one fell swoop, could slash the bureaucratic tangle cooked up in Washington, Rabin flew to Ismailia to show the world that even the Egyptian president does not expect him to go out of his way.

Minister: No Leak From Dimona Reactor

TA1704160393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has announced that there is not and never has been a radioactive leak from the Dimona reactor. An earlier report from Cairo stated that Egypt was closely following reports of an alleged radioactive leak, based on earlier Israeli reports on the disposal of the reactor's liquid wastes in Hamakhtesh Haqatan. Minister Sarid emphasized that every test has proved that there is no radiation in the Hamakhtesh area. He added that his ministry will carry out an additional test this week and that all its findings will be made public. Correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Minister Sarid will leave for Egypt on 19 April upon the invitation of his counterpart, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd. He will take advantage of this opportunity to clarify that the Dimona reactor poses no danger to Israelis or Egyptians.

Egyptian Concern Over Radioactive Waste Rejected

TA1604081793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has dismissed Egypt's concern regarding Israel's disposal of radioactive waste in the Negev. Sarid told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that radioactive waste has never been disposed of anywhere other than the site designed for that purpose at the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona. Our correspondent recalls that concern about radiation close to the Israeli-Egyptian border cropped up following a hitch last summer when radioactive waste water was spilled into a ravine in Hamakhtesh Haqatan. All the tests carried out since then show no radiation.

IDF Injures, Captures 2 Armed Men in Gaza

TA1504095293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Two armed wanted men were captured this morning in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The two were shot and wounded, one seriously and the other slightly. Kalashnikov assault rifles and a

revolver were found in their possession. Two other wanted men managed to escape and are holed up in one of the houses in the camp. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] encircled the house and imposed a curfew on the refugee camp.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 30 wanted men have been rounded up in the Gaza Strip since the closure was imposed on the territories.

Car Bomb Blast in Jordan Valley, 2 Killed

TA1604122593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Two Arabs were killed in a car bomb blast in the area of Mehola in Jordan Rift Valley. Eight soldiers, who were in the vicinity, were injured, one moderately and the rest lightly. It has been learned from Ha'emeq Hospital that most of the wounded would be sent home today.

One of the dead men is apparently an Arab who was employed at the Mehola Junction restaurant. The identity of the second dead Arab is being investigated, but it is believed that he may have activated the car bomb.

The explosion evidently occurred in a jeep which arrived shortly before the blast and was standing between the two buses—a civilian and a military one—at the Mehola restaurant. The jeep may have carried gas containers. [passage omitted] The two buses were almost empty, the soldiers being at the restaurant. Both buses were gutted.

Abu-Jabir on Damascus, Arab League Meetings

NC1804082693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Jabir] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, can you tell us something about what was accomplished yesterday during the cordon states foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus?

[Abu-Jabir] The meeting dealt with a number of issues, the most important of which was the issue of returning to the ninth round of negotiations. The ministers also reviewed several other issues, including, of course, the issue of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur and those deported since 1967. They also reviewed the outcome of the recent contacts among Arab countries and with the United States, including the outcome of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States. The conferees also reviewed the developments in the Palestinian issue and the entire peace process since the Madrid Conference.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is clear that the meeting was especially important because of the issues on the agenda. Can you tell us something about the Palestinian position at this meeting?

[Abu-Jabir] [passage omitted] The meeting indeed assumed special importance. We were all fully aware that we are at a crucial juncture in the negotiations process. That is why the talks have taken all this time. As you know, the Damascus meeting remained open. This is the second time we have done this. We have decided to come here to Cairo to attend the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting and then to return to Damascus to resume the consultations and talks and make a final decision. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of the Damascus meeting, is it possible to say that the next round of peace negotiations will be resumed on schedule, or will it be postponed for one or two days for further consultations?

[Abu-Jabir] This is one of the things that will be discussed in Damascus.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, you are heading Jordan's delegation to the 99th Arab League Council session. Can you tell us something about the Jordanian position or the most important issues on the Council's agenda?

[Abu-Jabir] As you know, there are many issues on the agenda, led by the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Palestinian issue. There is a possibility that the head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency will meet with the foreign ministers. Also to be discussed is a report submitted by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on what can be called Arab reconciliation or a comprehensive Arab view of the events currently taking place in the Arab arena. There are many issues to be discussed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In view of the issues on the agenda, is it possible to say that the Arab foreign ministers will adopt important decisions on Arab and Islamic issues?

[Abu-Jabir] I think the Arab foreign ministers' meeting under the Arab League umbrella is positive and valuable, especially since the Arab region is still suffering from the effects of the Gulf crisis. We think that any meeting of the Arab foreign ministers or Arab officials is positive, because in our view it is a step in the right direction toward Arab reconciliation. It is senseless for the situation to continue as it has for the last two years. We must reconcile among ourselves first, and then we can reconcile and deal with the rest of the world in a manner that protects our interests, serves our goals, and safeguards our national and regional security.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we assume that the Arab foreign ministers will focus today on the issue of Arab reconciliation and the establishment of a unified Arab position in order to prevent a recurrence of what happened on 2 August?

[Abu-Jabir] This is a basic and principal issue. As you know, we in Jordan are intensely interested in the issue of Arab reconciliation. Since we are dealing with a strong and stubborn adversary, it is unreasonable for the Arabs to remain divided and in conflict with each other.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister Abu-Jabir, thank you very much, and we always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Jabir] Thank you, and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs.

U.S. Navy Scored on al-'Aqabah 'Siege'

JN1904075193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 4

["Opinion" column by Ahmad Jamil Shakir: "A U.S. War on Jordanian Press"]

[Text] The only explanation for the U.S. Navy denying entry to the Port of al-'Aqabah by the Norwegian ship Windfield, and forcing it to return to Jeddah, is that the U.S. Navy found out that the ship was carrying newsprint for the Jordanian press, which is exposing U.S. practices and double standards and stoutly opposing those who try to undermine this country's steadfastness and pride.

What are the reasons for these tight measures and the continuing siege on al-'Aqabah? Is it meant to prevent the delivery of goods to Iraq or to tighten control over goods bound for Jordan?

If the question were related to Iraq, then the U.S. Navy, and even U.S. aircraft, would be monitoring the Iraqi borders with Syria, Turkey, and Iran, since it is common knowledge that banned and other goods move freely across these borders under the watchful gaze of the entire world and the United Nations. The United States, however, has chosen to act as policeman to enforce the embargo resolutions against Iraq.

Ships laden with newsprint for Jordanian papers have repeatedly been denied entry, which confirms the intense hatred for our press, since it is the mouthpiece of honest Arabs and because it could not be recruited to serve the enemies of the nation.

The Jordanian shipping agency that chartered the Norwegian ship could find no reason for denying entry to the paper-laden ship for the second time. Nor could it justify the U.S. Navy's insistence on examining every package and roll of paper on board. This is despite the U.S. Navy's rich record of disgrace and despite the agency's awareness of the uncivilized treatment of ships bound for Jordan, to the degree of asking Jordanian merchants to write down their telephone numbers, post office box numbers, the location of their warehouses, and other details, probably including how many children they have and the names of their mothers.

It is strange that the U.S. Navy took these strict measures only hours after a U.S. naval delegation visited Jordan and met with shipping agents, promising them to ease restrictions on Jordan-bound vessels.

We hope that the Foreign Ministry will summon the U.S. ambassador to apprise him of the grave thing that is taking place. Jordan should also conduct a worldwide campaign to preserve our pride and eliminate the possibility of a sudden disappearance of our newspapers as a result of these arbitrary measures.

'Clear' Government Stand Needed

JN1804113193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 93 p 20

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "We Besiege Our Industry at the Iraqi Border, and the Americans Besiege Our Imports in al-'Aqabah!!"]

[Text] We call on the strict people of the Ministry of Finance at the border with Iraq to make use of their muscle in confronting the U.S. naval forces' siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah. During one week alone, these forces banned two ships from entering al-'Aqabah. Both ships were carrying, among other things, paper used in printing Jordanian newspapers, which may not be able to publish if paper is not received within a week. It is not right for the Ministry of Finance to besiege us on the border with Iraq while the U.S. Navy is besieging us in the Port of al-'Aqabah.

We cannot respect UN resolutions if the U.S. Navy does not respect Jordan's interests. If the Americans are playing the role of the bully—a mercenary for all those bearing a grudge against Jordan and who are unable to harm it—then we should reply. Jordan, the small country, can complain to the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and can harm America's agents in the region.

The U.S. Navy does not intercept ships heading toward Iranian and Turkish ports although Iraq's imports transit these ports unobstructed. The American double standards are aimed at fighting us economically and not at besieging Iraq. These double standards are designed to fight the Port of al-'Aqabah in particular. We believe that the U.S. commander, who possesses a list of imports which is prepared for him in Amman, is aware of the fact that the paper which he banned from entering al-'Aqabah and unloaded in Jeddah and al-Shariqah, is paper used for printing Jordanian newspapers, which do not enjoy the blessings of Washington or Arab oil. These newspapers advocate democracy and the Arab individual's freedom, dignity, and right to hold his head high. Washington applies these slogans to the entire world except the Arab homeland. In this homeland, Washington loves every backward tribal, totalitarian, and dictatorial regime. In this homeland, Washington also loves all oil and colored newspapers which cast doubt on all that is Arab, humanitarian, and beautiful, and sing praise for the new world order, which has only an American face.

We call on the government to adopt a clear stand which meets the level of our country's dignity and interests. It is not right to besiege Jordanian industries at the Iraqi border and, at the same time, accept a U.S. siege on our imports in al-'Aqabah. This is an unreasonable equation!!

Palestinians, Arabs Urged To Take 'Firmer' Stand

JN1804093293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Why Do They Not Postpone the Negotiations?"]

[Text] The cordon states would do well if they respond favorably to the Palestinian call for postponing participation in the negotiations, and not accepting their resumption before the deportees return home in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. Such a favorable response would show that the cordon states adopt a unified stance.

It is not wrong at all to adopt a firmer Arab stance and prevent both the circumvention and disavowal of Resolution 799, especially since the cordon states can now increase their coordination and let the Rabin government continue to suffer from its political crisis and further economic deterioration as a result of the escalating brave intifadah in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians should immediately, and without hesitation, announce their refusal to participate in the negotiations. The Palestinian side should take the initiative in adopting a firmer Arab stance and giving justifications for

it. This is because the Palestinian side is the party most concerned with the deportee issue and with the implementation of Resolution 799. The Palestinian call for postponing the negotiations, although positive, is still insufficient for adopting a firmer Palestinian and Arab stance.

We had hoped the Damascus meeting would determine the Arab stance on resuming the negotiations and on the deportee issue. It seems, however, that the Israeli and U.S. promises have lured some of the cordon states and made them reluctant to determine their stance. This indicates that Rabin's maneuver has achieved some success, without providing anything tangible to the Palestinians and Arabs.

Resolution 799 is a powerful bargaining chip for the Palestinians, and they should adhere to it. If this bargaining chip is neglected or sold out, then the circumvention and disavowal of the international resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, will be a consistent Israeli policy which cannot be rescinded.

The international resolutions, led by Resolution 799, are the most powerful Palestinian and Arab bargaining chips in the peace negotiations. Selling out any of these resolutions may be regarded as relinquishment of part of the Palestinian and Arab rights.

King Condoles Death of Turkey's Ozal

JN1804165193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Cable of condolences sent by King Husayn to acting Turkish President Husamettin Cindoruk on the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal; date not given]

[Text] With extreme sorrow, we have received the news of the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal. With his demise, Turkey has lost a prominent Turkish leader who contributed to its progress and prosperity.

While expressing, in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people, our sincerest feelings of grief and sorrow for you and for the friendly Turkish people, we beseech Almighty God to bestow His mercy on the deceased and to grant him divine acceptance, and also to grant his family and relatives gracious patience and solace.

Coverage of CENTCOM Commander Hoar's Visit

General Hoar Arrives

JN1604160193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] General Joseph Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, arrived in Amman this evening along with an accompanying delegation for a several-day visit to the Kingdom.

He was received at the airport by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces; the assistant chief of staff for operations and training; the Air Force chief of staff; and the U.S. ambassador and military attache in Amman.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1704121693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and defense minister, received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning General Joseph Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command. They reviewed military relations between Jordan and the United States. The U.S. ambassador and the military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Amman attended the meeting.

Received by Chief of Staff

JN1704192793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, today received General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command, and his delegation at the Armed Forces Headquarters.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reviewed conditions in the region, and cooperation and the exchange of expertise in various military fields. He referred to the qualitative improvement the Armed Forces have achieved in various fields and the humanitarian role they play in preserving security and peace in various parts of the world.

The meeting was attended by the Royal Ground Forces chief of staff, a number of assistant chiefs of staff, the Royal Air Force chief of staff, the U.S. ambassador, and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Israeli Attack Targeted PFLP Official

NC1604200893 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, April 16 (AFP)—Israeli Cobra helicopter gunships on Friday fired missiles at an official of a Palestinian group, seriously wounding him and killing his wife and daughter, a security source said.

Samir Suwaydan, 42, a Lebanese military official [as received] of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was seriously wounded when a helicopter chased down his car on a road to the village of Yatar, a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement which adjoins Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The source said an Israeli missile slammed into Suwaydan's beige Mercedes, shredding it to pieces and setting it on fire. Suwaydan managed to jump out but his wife and daughter were burned alive.

A civilian was also killed and three others wounded when their house was hit by another missile which also targeted Suwaydan, the source said.

Suwaydan was rushed in critical condition to the Sidon hospital in south Lebanon while the bodies of his wife and child were taken to a Tyre hospital.

Earlier, Lebanese police said the first missile had killed all the car's passengers.

The source equated the Israeli attack with one which killed Hizballah chief 'Abbas al-Musawi in February 1992 when Israeli helicopters pinned down his convoy.

Israel last raided south Lebanon on Tuesday when its helicopters carried out a series of attacks against Hizballah strongholds in the region after three parachutists were killed and two wounded in a bomb attack.

SLA Position Comes Under Rocket Attack; Bomb Defused

NC1604114793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the border strip reported this morning that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Talluzah came under rocket and machine-gun fire at midnight Thursday. Meanwhile, an SLA unit discovered and defused an explosive charge in the central sector of the border strip.

Israeli Artillery Retaliates

NC1704092693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the al- Litani River basin and the vicinity of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and al-Hamra' farm have been coming under artillery fire from Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah since 1100 today. The shelling followed an operation carried out jointly by the Islamic Resistance and Amal Movement against an Israeli patrol on 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road. According to a statement by the Islamic Resistance, an Israeli tank was destroyed in the attack.

[Paris AFP in English at 0859 GMT on 17 April transmits a Marj 'Uyun datelined report that adds the following: "Guerrillas fired mortars Saturday, wounding at least one South Lebanese Army (SLA) militiaman patrolling Israeli-held areas of south Lebanon, security sources said. Mortar fire rained down for more than 15 minutes on an SLA position in al-Shumariyah in the central part of Israel's self-declared security zone, the source said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack."]

Amal Home Destroyed in Shelling

NC1804074193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Three people were killed and six others injured in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah today when the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Israeli troops bombarded the area in retaliation for the killing of an SLA member during a terrorist attack yesterday in the western sector.

Reports say the house of Amal Movement official 'Abbas al-Faqih in the area was destroyed by the artillery bombardment.

Islamic Resistance, Amal Statement

NC1704172893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Sources at the joint operations room of the Amal Movement and the Islamic Resistance have reported that joint groups from the two sides attacked the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah posts at 1000 this morning with machine guns and rockets. The fighters clashed with the personnel manning the two positions.

According to a statement by the joint operations room, an ambush was set up along the roads leading to the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions. A Mercedes Benz belonging to an official in the Agent Lahd's army was hit. The official and his two companions were killed. When enemy reinforcements arrived at the scene of the incident, another group attacked an M-113 armored personnel carrier, setting it on fire.

Israeli Overflights Reported in South

NC1804125593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah at noon today. Earlier today they carried out mock raids against villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Nabatiyah, and al- Zahrani areas, creating tension.

Three Katyushas Fall in Security Strip 18 Apr

NC1904055593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Three Katyusha rockets fell inside the central sector of the security strip in the south at about 2300 yesterday. It is not known whether the rockets caused casualties or damage.

Bodies of Two FRC Members Found in Sidon

NC1904093793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim Turkiyah, Fatah Movement political representative in the Sidon area, was gunned down in Sidon this morning as he was coming out of his house in the al-Barrad neighborhood of central Sidon. The gunmen escaped.

Two bodies were discovered this morning near the Sidon Public Works Department. According to security sources, the two are members of Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] and were murdered more than 36 hours earlier. Security forces arrived at the scene and began an investigation.

Minister Buwayz on Damascus Meeting, Syria

JN1904100093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the Damascus coordination meetings were characterized by a high level of assessment and analysis as well as sound opinions, and that they departed from the traditional Arab meetings. This entitles the participants in these meetings to make a long-term decision which will safeguard Arab rights.

In an exclusive statement to TISHRIN published today, the Lebanese minister said that the discussions were difficult due to conflicting and crucial facts pertaining to several important issues. Therefore, there was a postponement to allow for further consultations and for a unified Arab decision to be made.

With regard to the deportee issue, Buwayz said: We should not depreciate this issue, but at the same time we should not let it outweigh the substantial cause. He pointed out that Israel's attempt to play with Arab feelings and drag the Arabs into holding negotiations on Resolution 799 as a price for this issue is an extremely serious matter.

Buwayz urged the United States, in its capacity as a sponsor of the peace process, to play a more effective, clear, and serious role, particularly toward Israel. Regarding the Syrian-Lebanese cooperation and coordination agreement, the Lebanese minister said: This agreement is being implemented on all levels. This will make the Lebanese-Syrian stance a very strong one, he added.

Al-Rantisi Urges Return to 'Patriotic' Ranks

NC1704115193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Dispatch by unidentified Voice of the People correspondent in Rashayya al-Wadi]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the Palestinian deportees media spokesman, held a news conference today, asserting that the march they staged yesterday is not their final shot but will be followed by many other shots at appropriate times. He pointed out that the march nevertheless achieved its desired aims, including inspiring the Palestinian people into fresh interaction with the deportee issue and forcing Faysal al-Husayni, who had adopted a stand contrary to the Palestinian people's stand, to back down immediately. It also forced the Palestinian delegation members to announce that there can be no return to the talks.

Commenting on Hanan 'Ashrawi's latest stance and her statement that she has not yet received word from Israel that it will halt deportations without trial, al-Rantisi remarked: 'Ashrawi has adopted a serious issue whereby she is speaking on behalf of Rabin.

Al-Rantisi added: If Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Hanan 'Ashrawi return to Palestinian patriotic ranks, our nation will forgive them their sins because it is a noble nation.

About the cordon states foreign ministers meeting in Damascus, al-Rantisi declared: The people meeting in Damascus are well aware of the deportees' stand, the Palestinian people's wishes, and the Arab people's wishes. I believe that they will act in accordance with this awareness.

Al-Rantisi appealed to Yasir 'Arafat to halt the massacres in which Palestinian blood is shed, noting that 'Arafat is the only one who can do that.

Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk gave us an assessment of the situation in the Jerusalem camp of return, noting that conditions are worsening daily as a result of food, medicine, and potable water shortages. He noted that the deportees also lack summer clothes during the current heat wave.

Assessing yesterday's march of the shrouds, Duwayk announced: Yesterday's march aimed to highlight the Security Council's and United Nations' continued silence, 120 days after our deportation, regarding the implementation of Resolution 799, to protest our presence in this remote mountainous area, and to take issue with many positions and statements, particularly the Palestinian delegation's positions. All these things made us stage yesterday's march, which will not be the last.

Warns on 'Backing Down'

NC1804125393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] During a news conference today, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Rantisi, the Palestinian deportees' media spokesman, said he will hold the Palestinian delegation responsible for any backing down, noting that if this delegation retracts its position, it will embarrass the other Arab delegations and force them to be dragged to the negotiating table. He added that the march of the shrouds will return if the Palestinian delegation returns to the negotiations.

Al-Rantisi addressed the U.S. secretary of state, saying: It is not easy to circumvent the deportees issue. Christopher must employ fresh thinking, because we are a new kind of people who do not accept defeat.

Al-Rantisi voiced appreciation for the honorable patriotic stand adopted by the Golan druzes, who announced to the whole world that they will not accept the Golan Heights' annexation to so-called Israel and that they reject the Zionist occupation of these Arab heights.

Ambassador Comments on Arab-Israeli Peace Talks

LD1704164193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1340 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Address by Ahmad al-Hasan, ambassador of Syria to Iran, on 17 April to mark Syria's Independence Day—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I wish to discuss some important issues, foremost of which is the peace talks in the Middle East, as well as the Syrian stance on the issue. I wish to point out the Syrian stance remains unchanged: We continue to stress that the establishment of peace in the region can only be achieved through the total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the administration of justice for the just rights of the Palestinian people.

Under no circumstances will Syria forsake an inch of its own national territory or that of other Arab territories, and it will refuse to accept minor solutions. However, Syria will stand by its principles and the UN Security Council resolutions.

We and others know well that Syria is the key to the peace process, and that without the Syrian presence, will, and decision, the region will fail to enjoy the blessing of stability.

Syria's positive reaction to peaceful international efforts has taken place within the framework of implementing international resolutions.

I wish to point out that Israel is trying to avoid a just and comprehensive peace, and that it has taken steps toward splitting the peace process, introducing conciliatory plans and diverting the mechanism of talks. Its aim is to bring about differences and tension between the Arab side to the peace talks in order to impose its wishes on every one of them. Obviously this is not acceptable and will not materialize as long as Syria continues to be the center and the axis of regional events.

Syria will not allow the Israelis to implement their plans, nor will it allow any of the Arab sides to weaken. Syria will remain steadfast in all its stances on the comprehensiveness of the solutions to all fronts, and this is an unchangeable stance. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Ninth Round of Peace Talks

JN1804143393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the peace process will meet again tomorrow in Damascus following a one day break to attend the meetings of the Arab League Council in Cairo. They will meet again to make their final decision on participation in the ninth round of the peace talks.

The meetings, contacts, and the in-depth and lengthy talks the ministers had over the past two days reflects an understanding of the critical nature of the phase and situation reached in the talks. They also reflect an increasing interest in adhering to a unified Arab position and view vis-a-vis the peace talks.

Probably the most assuring thing for the Arab citizen these days—in which we witness a savage Israeli position inside the occupied territories and an Israeli intransigence in the peace process—is the unified Arab stand that is based on adherence to the Arab rights and the peace process as a means to regain these rights in full.

Undoubtedly, the deliberations and analyses made during the past two meetings have reflected a high sense of responsibility and the need to make a common Arab decision on the resumption of the peace talks in the light of the outcome of the contacts with Washington that were held during the period in which the Damascus coordination meeting was suspended after it convened on 28 March.

It is immaterial what form the resumed talks will take as long as they address substantive issues. Returning to the negotiating table without providing the proper atmosphere to achieve progress in the substance of the talks does not serve the peace process and will not enable it to reach its goal and realize the desired peace.

Israel, of course, is concerned with form and this is the reason for its alleged enthusiasm to see the talks resumed and for sanctifying the dates proposed for these talks. In that respect, the statement made today by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was really ironic. He said that any postponement of the ninth round of peace talks from the proposed date, 20 April, is very dangerous and will complicate matters. For Shim'on Peres and the Israeli officials, the danger lies in postponing the resumption of the talks for a few days. But obstructing talks for more than four months because of Israel's fabrication of the deportee crisis, and preventing any progress in all rounds of talks for more than a year and a half as a result of Israeli intransigence, does not, in the view of these officials, threaten the negotiations or the peace process.

At any rate, this false Israeli enthusiasm for the talks does not convince any one. The fact that the Arabs are being deliberate in making a decision not only reflects our desire to emerge with a unified position, but also reflects a commitment to the peace process and its endeavor to establish a peace based on right and justice.

Afghanistan

'Intense Clashes' in Qandahar, 40 Casualties

LD1904101493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The acting minister of education in Afghanistan has called on the jihad group leaders in that country to evacuate the schools they have occupied so as to enable the pupils to resume their studies. According to a report by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, out of 300 schools in Kabul, about 100 are ruined as a result of the clashes in the past year.

Reports received from Afghanistan also indicate that at least 40 people have been killed or wounded in Qandahar during intense clashes between Defense Ministry forces loyal to the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] Party and forces of three local factions. As a result of these clashes, which involved heavy artillery and tanks, normal activities have come to a halt and the United Nations has closed its representative office in that city.

Sporadic Clashes in Kabul, 5 Killed, 50 Wounded

LD1804170793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] West Kabul has been the scene of sporadic clashes in the past 24 hours, according to a report by our correspondent in Kabul. The clashes have left at least 5 dead and 50 wounded. The two sides used light and heavy weapons against each others' positions.

Meanwhile the presidential spokesman said: Following repeated violations of the cease-fire in Kabul, the Afghan Government has sent a message to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], calling on the organization to send experts to identify and report those responsible for the violation of the cease-fire and the Islamabad agreement.

The ICO vice president announced during his trip to Kabul last week that if necessary the organization is prepared to send 60 of its experts as ceasefire observers.

Esma'ili Militia Helicopter Crashes; 15 Dead

NC1604175393 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Kabul, April 16 (AFP)—A helicopter belonging to the ex-communist Esma'ili militia and carrying 15 passengers, including two Western journalists, crashed in the Hindu Kush mountain range Friday killing all on board.

The military helicopter on routine flight to the Kayan Valley lost altitude and crashed into a mountain apparently due to engine failure.

A rescue team from the Halo Trust, a foreign sponsored mission responsible for de-mining operations in Afghanistan, reached the crash site late Friday and confirmed all passengers and crew were dead.

John Lane, the head of the Halo Trust in Kabul, said the bodies of the two Western journalists were now at the organisation's headquarters in Pol-e Khomri, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of Kabul.

Lane said the bodies of the two journalists would be transferred to Kabul Saturday overland by members of the Halo Trust.

The victims' names have not been released pending notification of next of kin. Lane said the bodies would be later flown to Pakistan.

Repatriation of Refugees From Zahedan Starts

LD1604221093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The first phase of the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees and emigrants living in Zahedan began this morning. During the first phase of the repatriation of Afghans living in Zahedan 120 families, comprising 601 people, were sent to the Doqarun Pass in Khorasan Province in 25 buses and 20 trucks. The Afghans will go on to their homeland after receiving aid donated by the UNHCR.

Later phases of the repatriation of Afghan refugees will be carried out once a week. Following the preparation of the Meylag and Mirjaveh border points, the Afghan refugees will be repatriated through those border points as well.

India

Minister on Pakistan Involvement in Bombay Blasts

BK1704140093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 17 (AFP)—India has no proof of Pakistan's "direct involvement" in the string of blasts which killed about 300 people in Bombay last month, External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh said Saturday.

Indian investigating agencies have "so far not provided any concrete proof of direct involvement of Pakistan," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Singh as saying in the northern city of Lucknow. But there was no doubt that Islamabad was "aiding and abetting terrorism" in the Indian states of Punjab and Kashmir, where Sikh and Muslim militants are fighting for secession, he told a news conference.

"This is the main hurdle in improving bilateral ties," he added.

Singh's statement contradicted claims by Maharashtra State Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, who also administers Bombay, that Pakistani intelligence was responsible for the bombings on March 12. Islamabad has denied involvement.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has promised to cooperate fully with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao in the search for the main suspects if they were in his country, Singh said.

The Bombay bombers struck at 13 places within two hours last month. The Bombay Stock Exchange, the Air India headquarters and three luxury hotels were among buildings hit. As well as the hundreds who died more than 1,400 people were injured in the explosions.

Bombay police have arrested more than 70 people in connection with the blasts.

Home Affairs Minister Comments

BK1804133193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The center is committed to wipe out Pakistan-sponsored terrorism as well as the internal forces of communalism which are threatening the unity and integrity of the country. This was stated by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, while addressing a public rally in Amritsar today. He said in the past few years, the peace of the country has been jeopardized by the interference of certain external forces which wanted to weaken India. He charged Pakistan with providing training to the militants of Punjab and Kashmir valley and then sending them across the border with arms. Mr. Pilot said investigations into the recent Bombay explosions have proved beyond doubt that those who planted these bombs received training in handling explosives across the border. He said no more proof is needed to prove Pakistan's complicity.

Terrorism Support Blocks Better Ties

BK1704160593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, said Islamabad's support to terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir continues to be a stumbling block in improving our relations with Pakistan.

Mr. Bhatia was addressing the 19th annual congregation of the Guru Nanak Deb University in Amritsar today. He said India is still committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan on the basis of the Simla agreement.

Rao Comments on Talks With Pakistan Counterpart

BK1704095093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The prime minister has ruled out another reorganization of states. Talking to newsmen at Nagpur airport, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the center does not consider any reorganization necessary. About holding elections in the four states earlier ruled by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the prime minister said the center has received a report from the chief election commission and is awaiting reports from the state governments. He said the six month's period of president's rule in these states expires in June and the center is in the process of taking a decision on either holding elections or extending president's rule. In reply to a question, Mr. Narasimha Rao said there is no move to hold mid-term elections for the Lok Sabha.

Asked about last month's bomb explosions in Bombay, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he had told the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif in Dhaka that the investigation into the escape of the Memon brothers, the prime suspects, led to Pakistan. He had stated that Islamabad must help India in bringing the Memon brothers to book. The prime minister said he is raising the issue of terrorism in every country he visited. He said international cooperation is a must for checking the problem.

Addressing a gathering at Wardha near Nagpur, Mr. Narasimha Rao said top priority will be given to develop areas which have not received adequate attention. He stressed the need to develop transport facilities as they are vital for the economy. Mr. Narasimha Rao asked the people to take part in developmental programs and not to be carried away by misguided violent elements. [Passage omitted]

Dismissal of Sharif Government Viewed

BK1904034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Commentary by AIR Islamabad Correspondent Suresh Chopra entitled: "Dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif Government"]

[Text] When the people in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, woke up yesterday morning, they were more or less certain that something dramatic would happen before the day is out. The evening before, the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, had gone on countrywide tv and radio and made what many considered to be the most defiant and emotional speech of his political career. Without naming the president, Mr. Sharif read out a long list of charges against him, prominent among them being that Mr. Ishaq Khan was spearheading the movement to dislodge his government. Those who know Mr. Ishaq Khan were certain that he would not take what has been said against him lying down, even when Mr. Sharif seemed to have sailed through with his cabinet meeting yesterday morning, which strongly endorsed his leadership. The leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, flew into Islamabad after a two and half months' absence abroad and went into an emergency meeting with her partymen. The air was thick with expectancy. Late in the evening around 2100, someone came from the president's house for a press gathering. It could only mean

one thing, that Mr. Nawaz Sharif had lost out in the power struggle. A grim-looking president read out the dissolution order, dismissing Mr. Sharif's government and dissolving the National Assembly before what was the largest press gathering ever seen in the Pakistani capital. Mr. Ishaq Khan read out a long list outlining his reasons for sending Mr. Sharif packing, chief among them being maladministration, corruption, wastage of public money, lack of transparency in the privatization process, and violation of several clauses of the Constitution. Thereafter, he refused to take any questions from the press persons and went on to spring his next surprise by the swearing in of a political unknown, Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari, a member of the dissolved National Assembly, as the caretaker prime minister. Also sworn in were two ministers—Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha, a minister of the former Nawaz Sharif government and the man who began the resignation drama, and Mr. Farooq Ahamd Leghari who is from the People's Party and was deputy leader of the opposition. A short while later, fresh elections were announced for the 14th of July. While Pakistan has been through a month of uncertainty of high political drama, one can now look forward to an equally interesting time as the election process unfolds in the weeks ahead.

Troops Fire on Student Protestors in Kashmir

BK1904110693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Sopore, India, April 19 (AFP)—Six people were killed when Indian border troops opened fire here Monday at a protest by several hundred students demanding independence for Kashmir, police and witnesses said.

About 400 students had gathered in the main square of this apple- growing town 55 kilometres (33 miles) north of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, chanting "we want freedom" and protesting the airing of a series on the Bible by Indian state television.

The students, passersby and shopkeepers scattered as troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) fired bursts from automatic weapons for several minutes, witnesses said. Some troops fired in the air but many targeted the crowd.

"Three students, one girl and two horsecart drivers were killed and at least four people were injured," according to police.

Shutters came crashing down as the students scrambled for cover in the rubble of Sopore's main market, gutted on January 6 in a fire blamed on the security forces. Nearly 50 people died in that blaze.

Within seconds of the troops opening fire, the streets were deserted. Panicked horses raced away from the gunfire, dragging driverless carriages.

An AFP photographer was threatened at gunpoint by an Indian soldier and forced to hand over most of his film. A bullet also smashed the side window of an AFP car.

After the gunfire, residents paraded the body of one of the victims, a 17-year-old student, through the narrow lanes of this town, chanting "God is one."

The town was tense as Moslems militants pledged a retaliatory strike against the security forces, witnesses said.

Several thousand people have been killed in a four-year-old militant campaign for Kashmir's secession from Indian rule. Anti- government and pro-independence demonstrations are common in the Moslem-majority state.

Commentary Reviews U.S. Sanctions, Missile Regime

BK1804141393 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Commentary by Dev Prakash]

[Text] After putting pressure on Russia not to supply cryogenic engine technology to ISRO, [the] U.S. put sanctions against Indian Space Research Organization. This was against India's protest that cryogenic engine technology cannot be used for producing missile program. The American administration even set aside the recommendations of the U.S. Carnegie Endowment Study group, the American think tank's report entitled: India and America after the cold war. It had advocated that while the U.S. should continue to deny licenses for the sale of U.S. technology that would directly contribute to the Indian missile program, it should not adopt a punitive approach toward the Indian missile and space programs as exemplified by the unsuccessful U.S. attempt to block in May 1992 the Russian sale of cryogenic rocket engines to New Delhi on the grounds that the engines could allegedly be used in the Agni [missile] program. In fact, the U.S. foreign policy considerations vis-a-vis the proliferators override its proliferation concerns. The cases of China, South Africa, Israel, and Pakistan prove the point.

The missile technology-related U.S. sanctions are based on the guidelines of the multilateral Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR] of 1987. The sanctions are imposed not only on the primary exporter but also on consignee or any user involved. The regime seeks to prevent the export of these to countries that are not members of the MTCR. Under these sanctions, licenses for export of control items are denied for a period of two years, no U.S. Government contracts are entered into for two years, and no products produced by the entities involved are imported into the U.S. for two years. The sanctions against ISRO and Russian Space Agency were imposed on 6 May 1992.

Similar MTCR-related sanctions are imports against North Korea, Syria, Iran, and Pakistan, China, and South Africa. Sanctions against China and South Africa were lifted during 1992 even when China brazenly continues to transfer its M-11 and M-9 technologies to Pakistan. And in NPT, whereas North Korea continues to have U.S. sanctions slapped on it for alleged transfer of missiles. Sanctions were imposed against North Korea twice over within a span of four months—first, for transferring missile technology to Iran on 6 March 92 and later for transferring technology to Syria from 23 June 1992 for a period of two years. In contrast, the case of China is most revealing. Not only the initial sanctions were against specific Chinese entities only on 25 June 1991, but the sanctions were also completely waived within eight months of imposition in February 1992, on the recommendations of the then U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Baker, on the ground that waiving of sanctions were essential to the national security of the U.S.

The U.S. knows well that Pakistan with Chinese assistance is developing four ballistic missiles with a maximum range up to 600 km. Even Brazil developed SS-300 missiles with Chinese M-11 project. Pakistan's MATF-3 [name as heard] intermediate range missile program with a range of 300 km and a 500 kg warhead is based on Chinese technology. Similarly, China aided MATF-3 with a range of 600 km with the same warhead payload. Again, China and France have made significant progress in manufacturing intercontinental ballistic missile systems. Chinese have developed two large three- stage solid propellent ground launch and mobile systems known as DS- 31 and DS-41 and the second generation SLBM known as SL-2. The irony here is that USA is fully aware that China has exported M-11 and M-9 missile technology to Pakistan in December 92. The sale has not attracted any fresh sanctions from the USA. In fact, the USA has not even commented on it. It remains to be seen whether sanctions against Pakistan are extended beyond June 93 when a two year period expires. Even in the face of top Congressional objections, the U.S. continues to accord Most Favored Nation status to China. Similarly, in the case of South Korea and Africa, the U.S. notification dated 15 October 1991 does not even mention that South Africa was engaged in missile proliferation activity. Israel had openly transferred (Jerryhod) 2-B missile technology to South Africa. But Israel has never been mentioned let alone attracting sanctions.

Minister on SAARC Cooperation, Pakistan Ties

BK1704130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has said that economic cooperation between the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries will help in solving political disputes. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he said similar efforts in Europe and Southeast Asia had earlier opened up new vistas of cooperation between countries having long-standing mutual disputes. Speaking on Indo-Pak relations, Mr. Dinesh Singh said we have never held an aggressive stand because we do not want to jeopardize our development and relations with other countries.

Agriculture Minister Meets Israeli Industrialists

BK1604163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The government has sought joint collaboration with Israel for the export of horticulture products. The invitation was extended by the minister of agriculture, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, when a delegation of Israeli industrialists called on him in New Delhi today. Dr. Jakhar said that value addition [as heard] to the produce and exports in the agricultural sector is an important priority of the government.

Satellite Launch Vehicle Successfully Tested

BK1704120693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The flight version of India's first Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV] is getting ready for lift-off by the second half of this year from the Sriharikota Range. All subassemblies of the PSLV have been successfully ground-tested. A report:

[Begin Gayatri Chandrasekhar recording, identified by screen caption] One of the most complex missions of ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], the PSLV covers crucial grounds for self- reliance in launcher technology. The vehicle is a gigantic four- stage rocket, tall as a 12-story building weighing 275 tons, (?designed) to launch the 1000-kg class satellite IRS-1E into an orbit 900 kilometers above the earth. The 125-ton first-stage motor is the third largest solid rocket motor in the world. The second stage uses state of art liquid propulsion system. The third stage motor is among the largest upper-stage motor ever built. The launch will be controlled by ground and on-board computers. All sub assemblies have been repeatedly and successfully ground-tested. The elegance of the design can be seen in that the third and fourth stages can be replaced by a single cryogenic engine and we get GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle] capable of launching large communications satellite, such as INSAT, 36,000 kilometers above the earth. The PSLV need to achieve high upward thrust compared to weight, material, machining, and building development of a high order in the country. Major work on the launcher has been done at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Trivandrum. The launch will be from Sriharikota Range where the final assembly and testing will also be carried out. [end recording] [video shows shots of satellite]

Minister on Export of 500,000 Tons of Rice

BK1904034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The union minister of state for food, Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, has said the Center does not intend to decontrol the prices of sugar and the licensing policy for the sugar industry would continue. Speaking to newsmen at Shaktinagar in Tamil Nadu, he said that the overall food and edible oil situation in the country is satisfactory. The government has decided not to import wheat this year and will export 5 lakh tons of rice as the food position is comfortable. The minister added that the Center has no intention to exclude higher income groups from the purview of the public distribution system, but, at the same time, it would give priority to those below the poverty line.

Company Develops Powerful Super Computer

BK1904061193 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The Center for the Development of Advanced Computing, CDAC, in Pune is the only scientific organization in India to have developed and designed a multipurpose super computer called Param. With this advancement, India has now joined the elite club of super computer manufacturers. Here is a report from our Bombay Bureau:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] India is the only developing country to have developed a multipurpose super computer Param within two and half years' time-bound program. Param can now solve crucial science-based problems which were so far considered to be either costly or impossible. Crucial areas like space research, atomic energy, biotechnology, oil exploration, defense research, and a number of other programs depend on Param's high performance computing. Its architectural design is the best in the world. Param can do 100 crore multiplications and divisions in a second. Most important, Param is indigenously made except for one or two components. Param is the most powerful machine currently installed in the country. [end recording].

Iran

Reportage on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit to Kerman Province

Tours Copper Mine Complex

LD1604183493 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Kerman, April 16, IRNA—In the second day of his visit to Kerman Province Thursday President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday visited the Shahid Bahonar copper complex 22 kilometers from here.

The complex has three large-scale units for casting, rolling and extrusion of various classes of copper pipes and copper alloys with the minimum diameter of 0.54 millimeter and a maximum diameter of 52 millimeters.

The products of the complex are used by electrical and electronic industries, refrigeration and thermal industries, military industries and for making alloys for use at minting processes by the Central Bank of Iran.

The rated output of the complex is 54,000 [metric] tons per year in two operation shifts which can be improved to 72,000 tons per year on a three-shift day.

Last Iranian calendar year (ending on March 20) the output of the complex was 18,000 tons of which 1,000 tons was exported.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the services of Iranian workers at the complex and said that in its normal annual output the complex produces 50,000 tons of products each ton capable of earning Iran about one thousand dollars. He said the value added was dlrs 50 million which means in another one or two years the total capital invested in the complex would be owned by the complex.

The head of the social insurance organization Mahdi Karbasiyan said in the same ceremonies that the organization had made an investment of about rls [rials] 271 billion and in addition had invested as much as rls 120 billion in stocks.

On Thursday President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited the iron ore mine of Golgohar [name as received] and inaugurated a railway service that connects Sirjan with Golgohar that is 65 kilometers of railroad. The railway connecting Bafq to the Persian Gulf port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas is 710 kilometers, its main route line 635 kms with diversion rails branching out to Sarcheshmeh mine and Golgohar.

On the same day, the president said at a meeting with the personnel of the mine that by the end of the Second National Development Plan the mine will be worked to as much as 18 or 20 million tons of iron ore which means the production of 10 million tons of steel. The Golgohar mine has a total mineral reserve of about 80 million tons of concentrates with a purity rate of 68 percent.

The total capital investment made in Golgohar thus far is about rls 152 billion, rls 81 billion of it from development credits, rls 66 billion by the Bank Sepah of Iran, and rls five billion allocated by other resources. Its dollar investment so far has been 285 million which is included in its total capital investment of rls 152 billion.

The annual output of Golgohar complex is about 2.75 million tons of concentrated iron ore with a purity of 68 per cent which can be exploited at the steel industries. The output of the complex is improvable to five million tons in another two years upon additional investment in dollars of about 60 million and in rials of 40 billion.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited the cities of Bard Shir and Baft and addressed the people in those cities.

In Baft a large group of city people holding portraits of the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and shouting welcoming slogans greeted Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the city stadium. He said in his speech to the people that an agreement for erecting a plant in the city of Bard Shir that manufactures mining equipment is to be signed shortly. He expressed hope that industrial and economic advances will be marked by the commitment of the masses to cultural, and religious values as basic elements for true prosperity.

In Baft he addressed a large group of the city people appreciating the revolutionary fervor of the masses and expressing hope that as the second national development plan is implemented better facilities would be offered to the youth for their employment and college level education. He also indicated that the administration is concerned about the education of the tribal people and added that the periodic traditional wandering of the nomads should not pose educational problem for their children. He said those of the nomads willing to permanently settle in any location should be offered education services. On Friday the president inaugurated a 30,000-number digital station for the province as well as two telecommunications projects. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his inaugural speech in Kerman that over the next five years the number of private telephones in Iran would increase by one million each year. He said during the second five year national development plan the number of telephone lines will improve by five to six million.

He also added that the country has not thus far exploited electronic industries as much as it should have. He indicated that the administration is now considering the alternative of using a loan satellite or owning one. He said the digital center in Kerman Province also operates 43 telecommunication stations in various parts of the province.

Kerman is the second province, after Tehran, that uses the p.o.m. [expansion unknown] system for telecommunication purposes. On Friday morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the Sarcheshmeh copper mine near Kerman city. In his address to the personnel of the complex Rafsanjani appreciated their efforts and said the ouster, since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in February 1979, of the expatriate work force of the complex had helped the Iranian engineers and technicians to try to stand on their own feet and maintain the complex without reliance on foreign help. During the same ceremony the Mayduq copper concentration plant with a total yearly output of 150,000 tons of concentrate copper was inaugurated in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The complex produces anode copper weighing about 240 kilograms, solid wire with a diameter of eight millimeters weighing about 4,000 kilograms, cylindrical tubes with a diameter of 25 centimeters and a height of 7.30 meters weighing about 3,000 kilograms, and slabs weighing about 5,200 kilograms.

On Friday morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the Islamic Open [Azad] University in Kerman. The Chancellor of the University Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabataba'i handed in a report to the president on the operation of the university.

The Islamic Open University founded in 1983 produced as many as 2,467 graduates in various fields by the end of the last calendar year (March 20). The university now has 7,938 students in four schools. Plus an additional 90 in paramedical, nursing and midwifery.

On Friday Morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the Shahid Bahonar of Kerman Province and told his audience of college educators and teachers of the province that during the first five- year national development plan the size of the college education had improved by 44 per cent. He said decentralization had worked well with college education in Iran, and that the presence of academic experts in provincial towns and cities would help identify latent talents in academic areas. He added that college education should be offered at every remote location of the country so that social justice would be a factual reality.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that those of the educated Iranians who are now residing in foreign countries should be offered an opportunity to return home and serve their own people. He said the administration is proceeding with that goal.

Currently about 24,000 college and university students study in various fields in Kerman Province. They are mainly students of Shahid Bahonar University, Medical Sciences University, Vali-Assr University in Rafsanjan, Payam-e Nur University, the Islamic Open University, and the Public Management Center of the province.

There are now about 621,721 elementary, junior and senior high school students throughout the province who study at 5,250 public schools.

In midday Friday President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Shahr-e Babak west of Kerman for a courtesy visit and said to a large assembly of the people in the city that their presence there was a token of their feelings about the Islamic revolution. He said the Islamic revolution owes its survival to the presence in the scene of the people which, he said, is a great asset to the nation.

He said the welcome he was accorded by the well-wishing people in the city did not represent solely the personal feelings of the people in that city towards the person of the president but rather indicated their feelings about the Islamic revolution and Islam.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the administration stresses education at its highest as the most important element for ensuring the prosperity and happiness of the

nation which, he said, is given due consideration in the second national development plan that is to get started later on this year.

Visits Birthplace

LD1704194093 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Kerman, April 17, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the fourth day of his visit to this deprived province in Central Iran, arrived in his home village "Bahreman" about 40 kilometers from Rafsanjan, and was warmly greeted by crowds of welcoming people.

In his address to a large group of local people, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated that the villages throughout the country have been offered extra attention by the Islamic government since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979. The provision of drinking water and health and medicare services, he said, is in the main a post-revolution service to rural dwellers.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was then led on a visit of the public cemeteries in the villages of Bahreman and Nowq where he paid homage to the local martyrs of the Islamic revolution buried there.

After his courtesy talks with the people, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited his childhood house in the village and other locations that twinkled in him memories of the past.

On Friday morning, Hashemi-Rafsanjani delegated a mission to the city of Zarand for a routine visit and for studying potentials for cultural, educational and industrial development including the establishment there of local schools of the Islamic Free University.

A plant for manufacturing telecommunication cables was inaugurated in Rafsanjan, Kerman Province Friday. Phase one of the factory will become operational next September which will mean saving as much as DM [German mark] 40 million every year for the country.

The rated capacity of the factory is 315 million meters per year. the installation of equipments for the second phase of the plant is to be completed next July.

On Friday President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited Rafsanjan in the province and addressed the local people at the city stadium saying that the massive presence of the people in the scene is a revolutionary move for stabilizing the Islamic system in Iran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Friday also inaugurated the School of Technology and Basic Science of the University of "Martyr Bahonar" in Sirjan. The campus has 4,200 square meters of roofed and open space.

Inaugurates Technology Center

NC1804090493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his visit to Kerman Province and attended an inauguration ceremony last evening at the International Center for Science and Advanced Technology and Environmental Sciences [ICSATES] in Mahan.

The 100,000-ton grain silo complex in Kerman went into operation last night in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our colleagues will inform you later on about the ceremony.

At the ICSATES inauguration ceremony, the president unveiled a plaque for the center celebrating its operation and stressed the need for Islamic countries to gain access to research sciences and advanced technology.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The first step toward attaining our longstanding aspirations is based on upgrading the level of general and specialized education for all sections of society and investment in research and technology.

He elaborated: It takes time to acquire scientific know-how and advanced technology. Therefore, we should look to the future and allocate part of our resources toward this objective.

The president referred to the Martyr Bahonar, Medical Sciences, and Open Universities in Kerman. The 3,000 students enrolled at these schools will provide the necessary skills for the ICSATES to forge ahead with its objectives.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the initiative of provincial officials, who have gathered 8 billion rials from various sources to set up the ICSATES, and expressed his gratitude. During the ceremony, Culture and Higher Education Minister Dr. Mo'in said: The ICSATES at Mahan is one of the top 20 institutes for advanced technology in the Third World. He said that in the month of Aban [23 October-21 November] this year, a top-priority portion of this center's scientific programs will be initiated. The ICSATES will be located in the first scientific-research park [preceding word in English], which will be called Pardis-e Danesh at Mahan and will be situated on a 2,000-hectare site 5 km from Mahan.

Aviation, matter, energy, environmental technology, micro-electronic [preceding word in English] computer, and information sciences and expansion programs will comprise the main areas of this center's activities.

[Begin Kerman correspondent recording] With President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attending, the 100,000-ton grain silo complex and the 300-ton grain mill at Kerman went into operation last night. The silo and milling complex were made operational through the efforts of Construction Jehad personnel, and the country's Cereal and

Grain Organization is situated on a 19-hectare site 15 km from Kerman city. The credit allocation for this project is estimated at 10.8 billion rials in local and foreign currency. The ultimate capacity of the complex's silo will be 100,000 tonnes of wheat and includes three storage sections, each comprised of 36 grain receptacles, work towers, and silos for exports and imports.

This complex also houses two peripheral sections for the simultaneous unloading of wheat onto wagons and trucks at the rate of 400 tonnes an hour. The export section can handle 200 tonnes of wheat an hour.

With the operation of this complex and with the 40,000-ton silo at Rubah, constructed by the Kerman Grain Organization, the storage capacity of Kerman Province has risen to 350,500 tonnes from 175,500 tonnes and the production of hygienic flour in the province has risen from 500 tonnes to 750 tonnes a day. In addition to catering to the local needs of Kerman Province, this complex can also handle the requirements of contiguous provinces. [end recording]

According to IRNA, Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the operation of the Kerman silo complex, which was realized through the efforts of Iranian specialists, as a grand and beautiful moment. He said: I am deeply touched by the valor and constructive achievement of the personnel of this project. They initiated a complex and momentous task which was not easy to bring to fruition.

The president added: Foreign companies had taken $36 million from the previous regime to construct this complex and had eventually left it uncompleted. Our jehadi forces have completed it in less than four years with the utilization of a minimum of foreign exchange. We should congratulate these offspring of the revolution.

Makes Army Day Speech

LD1804122593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpts] As you were informed at the beginning of the news bulletin, on the fifth day of his visit to Kerman Province and on the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the morning military and security parade held at the Zero-Five Training Garrison in Kerman. During the ceremony the president made a detailed speech honoring Army Day. We draw your attention to a report sent to us by our colleagues in the Kerman Center about the remarks of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani during that ceremony:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president referred to the performance of the Armed Forces during the Holy Defense [Iraq-Iran war] and stressed: Our Armed Forces managed to cope with the most unfair war in history. The president added: Our Armed Forces, assisted by the people and the roaring wave of the self-sacrificing Basiji forces, created the greatest epic in history, breaking the enemy's morale during the first days and forcing the enemy to withdraw from all positions. [passage omitted]

Finally the units which were present at the ceremony marched past the president.

Concludes Kerman Visit 18 Apr

NC1904093493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Concluding his five-day visit to Kerman and Sistan va Baluchestan Provinces, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about his visit to correspondents in Chah Bahar last night.

The president described the large turnout of people, 15 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, as a beautiful sight and said: I was very pleased with this visit and the spectacle of the many people made me feel quite hopeful.

According to the Central News Unit in Zahedan, the president elaborated on the impact of the major economic projects in changing the face of Sistan va Baluchestan Province, and he termed the Pishin Dam project as one of the largest projects in the province. He added: The construction of this dam heralds a bright future for Sistan va Baluchestan.

The president then referred to the second phase of this project, which will ensure a potable water supply for Chah Bahar and Konarak, and expressed the hope that it would soon be implemented with the help of officials.

The president said the most important projects of the region were the Khash cement factory, the construction of a power station, and the plan for irrigation in Sistan, and he called on the people to help expedite these projects to erase the image of poverty and deprivation in Sistan va Baluchestan Province. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the people and the private sector to invest in this region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that massive change has occurred in Kerman Province regarding economic and industrial projects. Of course, this is evident in all provinces and the people are happily involved in their work and lives.

The president said that he saw desirable growth in the agricultural sector in Kerman, adding: One of the distinctive characteristics of this province is agriculture, especially the export products which greatly boost the local economy. He added: The province's industrial sector has achieved great progress and the number of industries has increased from seven to 1,200 units, including 600 involved in heavy industries.

The president said that the Golgowhar mine is the largest center for producing iron ore with more than 1 billion tonnes of ore. In the first extraction phase, 2.5 million tonnes of iron concentrate will be produced, yielding

approximately 1.5 million tonnes of iron. This is great source of wealth for the country.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained that the government has taken a fundamental step toward developing the country in view of this vast level of production. He said his schedule did not permit him to visit all the cities of Kerman Province, but said: I have sent delegations all over the province to assess the wishes of the people.

Summing up his visit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: All in all, I believe that the revolution is very strong and provides a source of optimism in all parts of the country, especially in Kerman Province. The people are enamored of the late imam and the leader, and everywhere I went they wanted me to convey their regards to the leader.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani departed Sunday [18 April] night from Chah Bahar port for Tehran.

Discussion Views Role of Armed Forces

LD1704213493

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1715 GMT on 17 April broadcasts a 35-minute roundtable discussion between Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Reza Safa'i, head of the political ideological directorate of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, and Major General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces.

The program begins with the moderator asking Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i about the position of the Armed Forces in Islam and their duty. Safa'i describes the Armed Forces as God's army, who should regard themselves as fighters in the way of God and Islam. Then Maj. Gen. Shahbazi is asked about the role of the Armed Forces. He talks a little about the history of the Armed Forces and their training courses.

The convenor then asks: "Gen. Shahbazi, can you please make an assessment of the arming and strengthening of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the hostile propaganda of the foreign mass media about this issue?"

Shahbazi answers: "This question requires detailed discussion, but I will try to speak very briefly. Regarding the strengthening of the Armed Forces, as you know, Iran is situated in the most sensitive and most strategic part of the world, namely the Middle East, which from a geopolitical point of view is situated between the three continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa." He goes on to recall that the West imposed the Iran-Iraq war in order to contain the Iranian revolution.

"When the enemies realized that they could not succeed in destroying the revolution despite eight years of the imposed war," Shahbazi says, "they mischievously described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a threat to the region. When the Islamic Republic of Iran was described as a threat it gave rise to a great deal of fear in the hearts of our neighbors and the enemies made a few gains from this. First of all, the enemies armed them with all kinds of weapons. The countries of the region began to arm themselves much beyond their capability, their capacity, and their populations. They stored such weapons which they were not capable of making use of for many years. Therefore, they will be dependent on those who supplied them with those weapons.

"On the other hand, the weapons which were supplied to them by other countries are regarded by the producing countries as a source of production and economy, because they solve their economic problems through such sales. However, they are damaging for the countries which receive them, because those countries destroy their economy in order to be able to acquire these weapons and allocate financial assets for them.

"In this arms race which they have brought about, despite the fact that they constantly say that the Islamic Republic is purchasing weapons, they also wish to involve the Islamic Republic in this arms race. In this way, they wish to impose economic, political, and cultural dependence on us as well. According to some of the international documents and books which they publish themselves, such as "THE MILITARY BALANCE," or JANES DEFENCE, and so on, they say that in 1990 the six Persian Gulf littoral states spent $115.6 billion on the purchase of weapons. According to the same book, the Islamic Republic spent $2.6 billion in the same year.

"Again, according to the same documents, in 1992 those six countries spent $53.7 billion, while the same book gives a figure of $3.7 billion for Iran. In other words, according to their own documents, the Islamic Republic has spent less than one-thirteenth of those six countries of the region. Therefore, this allegation of rearmament is nothing but propaganda.

"Of course, we cannot expect them to stress the wisdom of our leadership, our faith, our self-sacrifice, the devotion of our military personnel, and the unconditional support of the people because these are the reasons for their fear. These create human waves which they have always been frightened of. On the contrary, we rely on these factors. We will not waste our resources. We will make good use of our resources as, thanks be to God, this has been the case in the past. We have relied on self-sufficiency. We have relied on our domestic national and military resources. We have paid special attention to maintenance, repair, and training. We have made very satisfactory progress in self-sufficiency; and we have absolutely no desire to take part in this arms race which others have engaged in and have tied up their fate with those outside the region."

The moderator then concludes the program by asking Shahbazi to speak about the role of the Armed Forces in reconstruction and asks if he has a message for the people. Shahbazi speaks briefly about the participation of the Armed Forces in all aspects of national life and

calls on the Armed Forces to be aware of their own inportance as the soldiers of Islam and the revolution.

Turkmen Official Ends Visit, Signs Agreements

LD1604121493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Turkmenistan Vice President [Boris] Shikhmuradov, who was in Tehran at the head of a ministerial delegation to take part in the first meeting of the joint commission for economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan, left Tehran for Ashgabat last night after signing a memorandum of understanding on economic, industrial, and trading cooperation between the two countries.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, the agreements provided for Turkmenistan to utilize a credit line extended by Iran for export of Iranian goods to that country. They also agreed to expedite the setting up of border trading markets, to facilitate issuance of entry and exit visa to traders and merchants, and to provide multiple entry and exit visa to drivers of trucks transiting through the territory of both countries.

The two countries also agreed to set up trade fairs, complete joint communications networks—especially the peoject on Mashhad- Sarakhs-Tajen railway, which is to link East and Central Asian countries to Turkey and Europe through Turkmenistan and Iran—and establish return flights between Mashhad and Ashgabat.

The two countries, while agreeing to cooperate in the fields of gas, oil, and energy, stressed their previous agreements, especially on a pipeline to carry Turkmenistan gas to Europe through Iran. It was decided that within one month a delegation from our country should go to Turkmenistan to follow up measures previously adopted.

During their three-day stay in Iran, the Turkmenistan delegation members met top-ranking officials of our country, including First Vice President Hasan Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

President Sends Condolences on Ozal's Death

NC1804052193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Apr 93

["Text" of message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to acting Turkish President Hisamettin Cindoruk on 18 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hisamettin Cindoruk, acting president of Turkey. It is with great sadness and regret that I condole you on the demise of Turgut Ozal, the president of Turkey, who was a source of valuable services for our friendly and neighboring country of Turkey.

In the course of his lifetime, he took worthy steps in expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey.

I pray to God Almighty to bestow the blessings of His forgiveness on him, fortitude to his bereaved family, and honor to the friendly nation of Turkey.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Velayati, Habibi Condolences

NC1804054793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Iranian First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi sent a message addressed to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel expressing his regret over the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal. In a similar message to Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed his condolences on Ozal's death to the Turkish nation.

G-7 Foreign Ministers Tokyo Meeting Viewed

LD1604224293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The two day session of the foreign ministers of seven industrialized countries [G-7] and representatives of Russia concluded in Tokyo on Thursday. At this session, foreign ministers of seven industrialized countries discussed such topics as extension of financial and economic aid packages to Russia, trade war between Japan and the United States and economic cooperation among the seven industrialized countries.

As for Russia, which is facing a political crisis inside the country, the seven industrialized countries stressed the necessity for extending support for reformists, headed by Boris Yeltsin, and announced their preparedness for extending financial and economic aid packages. Based on the agreement reached G-7 industrialized countries are due to allocate $43 billion in aid for the improvement of economic aid situation in Russia. Although this amount is two fifths of the aid asked by Boris Yeltsin, it seems that in case it is paid, the Russian statesmen will be able to somehow shake their chaotic economic situation.

Of course in the belief of political observers what the foreign ministers of seven industrialized countries were seeking to materialize in their two day session in Tokyo was to create an international prestige and dignity for Boris Yeltsin so that he can gain victory in the 25th April referendum over conservative rivals, headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In view of Russia's $70 billion debt to the West, the seven industrialized countries' aid packages to Russia is aimed to help that country to pay back its debts. In view

of Russia's financial and economic incapability each of the G-7 countries is trying to evade new undertakings and to persuade other countries to extend assistance to Russia. For example although the United States depicted itself as the pioneer of support for Russia, it has allocated the minimum aid package to that country as compared to the other industrialized countries in a way that so far out of the $73.8 billion in aid package extended to Russia, Germany alone has ensured $47 billion whereas the United States' share has been $1.2 billion which is $1 billion less than aid packages extended to Russia by the small country of Austria.

In view of the predictions made on the economic growth in the European countries during the current year, which stands at zero, the European countries members in G-7 of industrialized countries are unlikely to fulfill their promises given in the recent session in Tokyo.

Amid this, the United States and Japan's economic situation is not in a desirable situation either so as to help Russia with its reforms. The United States and Japan have a trade conflict in a way that the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, before visiting Tokyo was quoted as saying, with the implementation of the United States' internal laws on the import of foreign goods and setting prices, it may force Japan to give in to the trade agreements reached between the two countries. In 1991, the United States, by invoking internal laws, forced the EC to reduce subsidies on some of its agricultural products.

Generally speaking, one can say that the decisions made in the recent session of the seven industrialized countries in Tokyo have a dramatic aspect aimed at strengthening reformist faction in Russia in the same way that the Russian High Court's move for putting the coup plotters was in the same line.

Clinton, Mubarak Comments on Country Criticized

NC1704150993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 8 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Hackneyed Excuses"]

[Text] Bill Clinton, the U.S. President and Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian President talked about the situation in the Persian Gulf, as well as about Iraq and Iran at a joint p[illegible]ss conference.

The U.S. President stated: "We are still determined to oppose Iran's involvement with terrorism and her active opposition to the Middle East peace trend. [no closing quotation mark as published]

After Clinton's remarks, Husni Mubarak stated: "The Iranians are stronger today and they try to create instability and insecurity in other countries. Egypt is Iran's prime target in his connection, but of course we will fight them back."

It deserves to be pointed out that neither of the two presidents produced any evidence to prove their claims, and it is quite obvious that they both tried to use the baseless accusations against Iran as a means of covering their own political deadlocks.

Clinton is clearly having problems in his foreign policy on the Middle East which formed the topic of the press conference. The strong influence of the Zionists in Clinton's administration won't allow him to remain faithful to the promises George Bush had made to the Arabs in order to persuade them to take part in the peace conference. How could he pressure Tel Aviv to restore to the Arabs the Golan Heights, when he can't even make the Israeli regime accept the Security Council Resolution 799, and return the 400 deported Palestinians to their homelands?

Confronted with such a deadlock it is quite natural for the U.S. President to blame Iran for the confusion of the American foreign policy in the Middle East.

It is of course true that we do not approve of the peace negotiations, as we believe Israel does not want peace but is only using the peace negotiations as a means of legitimizing its position.

On the other hand, Husni Mubarak is having serious problems in Egypt. The revival of Islamic ideology has by now spread to almost all of the Egyptian population, and the leaders in Cairo are confronting the popular movement with brutal and bloody repression. On the eve of Mubarak's recent trips, international organizations such as Amnesty International and Middle East Watch have been expressing their objections to the repressive measures of the Cairo regime. Thus it would seem that Mr. Mubarak also needs the excuse of the intervention of a foreign power like Iran to justify the bloody suppression of the popular upheaval in Egypt. What Mr. Mubarak should realize is that such hackneyed excuses have long outlived their usefulness.

GCC's 'Irresponsible Stance' on Gulf Islands Noted

NC1704150793 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Weekly Edition) in English 8 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Unduly Provocative"]

[Text] Time and again, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made its stand clear vis-a-vis the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

That the three islands are a part and parcel of Iranian territory can't be disputed. If doubts still persist about this fact among members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council particularly the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the Iranian government has made its willingness known to resolve the issue through peaceful dialogue and negotiations with the sheikhdom.

But provocative statements by (P)GCC foreign ministers at the recent Riyadh meeting, that Tehran's attitude "threatens security and stability in the region" are not only damaging and harmful, but also hamper the creation of a congenial atmosphere in the volatile Mideast region.

Pray, how does Tehran's stance threaten the region? The people and government of Iran fail to comprehend such meaningless remarks.

The fact is Iran's soft line and its accommodating stand over the islands has been taken advantage of by some Arab States. The (P)GCC should bear in mind that the security of the Persian Gulf region depends, not on isolating Iran, but by nurturing the goodwill built up by the Islamic Republic with the Arab States since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Security and stability in the region is unthinkable without Iran.

The Riyadh meeting, which was mainly to discuss economic issues like new taxes by Europe and the U.S. on oil, was unduly politicized with the (P)GCC ministers announcing "total support for the UAE in all peaceful measures to recover the sovereignty of the three strategic islands".

The Arab ministers also denounced "Iranian conditions" for renewing the negotiations, though Iran has made it explicitly clear that it welcomes continuation of talks for removal of doubts without any preconditions.

The islands issue is primarily between the Islamic Republic and the UAE, and it is the (P)GCC's irresponsible stance on the sensitive issue that could destabilize the region.

The (P)GCC states would be wise to remember that their biased position or undue interference regarding the islands and consequently Iran, will encourage foreign powers to take advantage of the situation, much to the detriment of interests of regional masses.

Comprehensive cooperation with Iran will depend largely on some basic principles such as good neighborliness, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs of a nation.

By keeping a minor issue alive, the council is only playing into the hands of some hostile Arab policymakers who are understandably averse to a normal Iran-(P)GCC relationship.

GCC Seeks To 'Please' U.S.

NC1704153993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "(P)GCC Still Issues Hostile Statements"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC Foreign Ministers' meet came to a close in Riyadh. In the final statement, as usual, the false claims of the United Arab Emirates over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the greater and lesser Tunbs were backed. It is gradually becoming a habit for every (P)GCC meet to support such claims, but the interesting point is that in their mutual ties with and official visits to Iran the member countries explicitly tell the Iranian officials not to take such (P)GCC statements seriously.

It should however be kept in mind that one of the important axes of the Riyadh talks is related to new taxes by Europe and the U.S. on the oil price. This is a consequential threat for the (P)GCC members, since the economies of all these countries are based on oil. It would have been appropriate for the statement not to have attacked other governments which could help these countries in this regard through a practical unity.

Informed observers, nevertheless, are of the view that following the coming into power of Bill Clinton in the U.S., the Democrats' sensitivity over human rights issues, and the possibility of their concentration of this matter, the (P)GCC foreign ministers have hastily attacked Iran on the one hand to please and satisfy the White House. On other hand, they have lauded U.S. efforts for what is called the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

At any rate, the leaders of southern Persian Gulf region should well know that instability and tension in this strategic area will not be to their interest. In fact, these leaders are like people sitting in a glass house and throwing stones at others.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Challenges President, Garners Support

Sharif's 17 Apr Speech

BK1804040893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1525 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Address by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, place not given—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate and merciful. My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I am present once again before you to take you into confidence as regards the country's situation. The poisonous effects of the atmosphere of uncertainty created by certain elements to meet their personal interests in the past month have started surfacing. Pakistan has started marching forward on the path of progress by virtue of the efforts of your government and its policies in the past two and a half years. But, due to political conspiracies, it appears that all that has been done is going to be wasted. Business in the stock markets has come to a standstill. Traders are worried. Investors are confused and the people are anxious and worried as to what will happen in the next few days. The pity is that those who have put the country into this state of uncertainty have used the place which is the symbol of the integrity, federalism, and

stability of Pakistan [the Presidential Palace], as an object of their ambition. It is regrettable that these people have not given any consideration to the sanctity the place deserves and used it to create instability in the country—the place which is constitutionally the symbol of Pakistan's stability.

Dear countrymen, you are aware that your elected government, rising above all political prejudices, has initiated revolutionary steps and started work in every sector for the construction and progress of the country. I have stepped into the political arena with a lofty goal and sublime mission. I wish to and am firmly resolved to make my sacred country, Pakistan, a model for the entire Muslim world by ensuring the progress and prosperity of the nation. Through our mutual cooperation, we must bring into being an Islamic power replete with resources and technology toward which nobody should have the guts to cast an evil eye. No one should be able to convert Afghanistan into ruins. No one could have the courage to play with the blood of the Muslims in India and demolish any mosque there. There is to be no devastation of any other Bosnia and the property and honor of innocent Muslims are not to be destroyed in any Kashmir.

My dear countrymen, as far as I understand, Pakistan was founded to become the torch-bearer and the source of support for all the Muslims of the world, and this was the very dream of Poet Allamah Iqbal and the wish of great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah. But this lofty goal was forgotten after the demise of Jinnah. No tower can be built without a foundation. Pakistan's foundation is its people. If the people are not strong, then Pakistan also will not be strong and eminent. With the same idea, I launched revolutionary programs for construction and progress in order to make my country strong and honorable.

First of all, I paid attention to national integration. The problem of water sharing, which had been unresolved for 70 years, was settled with the consensus of the four provinces. The long- standing dispute of the division of revenue was ended. By implementing the Council of Common Interests, a tradition was set in motion for resolving problems among the provinces in the spirit of love and brotherhood. We have forged a consensus, which is needed among brethren to accomplish major tasks, for the first time in the history of Pakistan. Thereafter, this will enable us to pay attention to basic tasks to which nobody has paid any attention due to political disputes.

After 1965, the wheel of progress in the industrial and economic sectors almost came to a standstill. When you elected me as your prime minister, foreign assistance had ceased to flow in. The resources of the country were almost nothing. Foreign exchange was not even enough to meet the needs of a few weeks. But, I decided to launch the programs of construction and development in the name of God. The process of building roads from the fields to the markets was expanded for the development of the agriculture sector. Loans to small farmers were increased. Peasants in Sindh were given tractors and tubewells for the first time. The industrialization process was simplified by doing away with unnecessary rules and regulations in the industrial sector. Changes were made in the revenue and credit systems. And, thereafter, the process of establishing a network of industries was launched throughout the country with domestic and foreign investments. Wherever you go, you will see the walls of factories coming up in all directions. You will see roads being constructed and telephone lines being laid.

Wherever you look, be it rivers and seas, plains and mountains, deserts and valleys, you will find how fast a country that had remained dormant for a long time is now moving forward and how busy it is implementing its process of construction and development. You will realize the spirit and dedication with which this backward Third World country is now preparing itself to enter the 21st century.

Dear countrymen, if you look at the stoppage of foreign aid, assess the shortage of national resources, and if you are aware of the stumbling blocks created by professional politicians, then you will definitely be surprised as to how these many major works are being done and how these changes were brought about in a short span of only two and one-half years. Our Pakistan, where the people imbued with love for the motherland had to face humiliating treatment soon after landing at its airport and from whom large sums of money were extorted, now affords them the facility to land their feet on the soil of their motherland with dignity and honor. There is now an abundance of buses, wagons, and yellow cabs [preceding two words in English] in villages and towns where travelers used to be treated like sheep and goats. The yellow cabs, specifically, have totally altered the culture in cities. Now, a youth holding college and postgraduate degrees drives you to your destination at an appointed time with respect and honor and prides himself in the honorable source of his income. If these hands were not provided with jobs for some time, we do not know how many of them would have, perhaps, grabbed Kalashnikov rifles or fallen in the dark dens of drugs and narcotics. The transport scheme has not only made hundreds of thousands of youth responsible and peaceful citizens, but also provided employment to hundreds of thousands of homes. In my first speech, I stated that employment does not only mean a regular job. Now I have provided practical proof of how employment, other than regular jobs, can be provided to the people. By launching a scheme of providing loans of up to 300,000 rupees on easy terms, we have provided opportunities for work to every person who is desirous of earning his livelihood with hard work. This is the first occasion in the history of Pakistan that poor people have been given loans. In the past, only big people—politicians or influential people—used to borrow billions of rupees and today those loans have become bad debts and the banks have not been able to recover the billions of rupees they extended to them.

For the first time in the Indian subcontinent, your country has achieved the honor of starting the construction of a motorway. This motorway project provides jobs

to thousands of people and will provide employment avenues to hundreds of thousands of people even after its completion. The arms of the Pakistani economy will extend up to Central Asia. Apart from that, a network of roads is being constructed for the entire country. The construction of a new port at Gwadar is continuing in full swing. The country, which had only one port for the past 45 years, will have two ports, God willing. These are only a few examples. You might recall that I had described my country as replete with resources and my people as great. But, the thing that was lacking was that nobody ever provided to the great sons of Pakistan the opportunity to utilize their abilities. They were used for organizing processions and slogan shouting, but were later left high and dry. But, we have demonstrated to you what abilities do exist in your country for development.

My dear countrymen, aside from creating unity and solidarity within the country and starting numerous construction and development projects, we had great successes in the external arena as well. The entire world, the entire Islamic world, is admiring Pakistan for its assistance in the conclusion of the Islamabad Agreement to end the civil war in Afghanistan. You can see the reflection of our strong stand on the Kashmir and Babri Mosque issues in the reactions that have been coming from India.

No matter who says what, the fact is that, despite opposition from all over the world, Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program is expanding, and God willing, no power in the world can shatter our resolve. The manner in which foreign investors are turning their attention toward Pakistan will help you judge as to how much of a congenial atmosphere, which has been against Pakistan to a provocative level, our foreign policy has created.

Dear countrymen, these were only a few examples of the overall work being done in the country. But, all of this development process will remain useless so long as the common man is not guaranteed a peaceful and safe life. We do not have the right to be called an Islamic state due to the manner in which tyranny and crimes are being perpetrated, particularly against our rural population. The thing that pains my heart most is the helplessness and victimization of our poor people. I am not stating this to serve any political end, it is the voice of my heart, it is my wish, and God willing, I shall not rest until I have ensured that justice is provided to the victims without any delay. I have a personal experience with this fact. Whenever I paid a surprise visit to a village where any poor woman had been raped and victimized, the criminals were exposed right in front of my eyes and I did not allow any delay in the dispensation of justice. I did not spare even influential people, even though they belonged to my own party. I am now looking toward a procedure under which a system is enforced throught the entire country to conduct the trial of criminals by a court on the spot, where the crime has been committed, and the accused is handed down punishment without any delay. This is true Islam and so long as this system of justice is not yet common, we cannot describe our society as Islamic.

Dear countrymen, do you find any fault in anything I said that necessitates restricting the hands of the government? I am doing all this for the progress and prosperity of the country's poor people, national integration, and the country's security. And all this work is being done by a properly elected, popular, and stable government. What can be inferred, if conspiracies are hatched to destabilize such a government? I have made service to the people my ideal. As the prime minister of Pakistan, every citizen enjoys equal rights in my eyes. I, with the grace of God, have the courage to say that on the very first day, I promised the people that after becoming the prime minister, I would consider your service as my duty whether or not you voted for me. Today, I can declare with pride that in matters like the extension of loans, the approval of factories, the privatization process, the provision of yellow cabs, or the distribution of land among peasant laborers, I never made any distinction as to who belonged to which party. Only they divide the poor in parties, those who lust for politics and have no sympathy for the poor. My sympathies are with every poor person no matter to what party he belongs. Probably no person in power in the history of Pakistan can produce such a record. I have never harbored any personal enmity against anyone. The biggest proof of this is that I provided such generous facilities to my political archrival as are unprecedented, perhaps even in the developed world.

My dear countrymen, I was working around-the-clock to serve you and the motherland. My government had a decisive majority in the National Assembly and it still enjoys that today. My government was stable, by the grace of God, and it still is. And who was benefiting from this stability? You and your Pakistan. Then why have some old political self-seekers who have indulged in dirty politics used the highest political seat of Pakistan and started creating an impression of instability? They include people who used to talk of entering Pakistan with enemy tanks. And surprisingly, by referring to the above political seat, they started to make claims of destabilizing the Pakistani Government every day, and the silence from that seat continued to be construed as an endorsement of these claims. It looked as if the election of the leader of the National Assembly was being fought there, and support and assistance was being sought for that purpose. The brazen act of creating a lobby of their own in the National Assembly is not directed against the House speaker alone, but it is an act aimed at shattering the parliamentary system, which is inappropriate for any custodian of the Constitution. This is a very painful act. The attempt to bring a new dummy leader of the House in the National Assembly and to run the Assembly through remote control has now become fully clear.

It is ironic that while I am doing everything possible to defuse the national crisis, those trying to further deepen the crisis are attributing their every step to the same

political seat, which ought to respect and uphold the Constitution. I ask: What national interest will be served by these maneuverings? If the ruling parliamentary party is divided, rival factions will be created in the National Assembly and no faction will be able to run the government with freedom and satisfaction. The Assembly will then become a center of blackmail and horse trading [preceding two words in English], which has already started. Why? I ask, why? What was my crime? Was it a crime that I made the entire Sindh Province a citadel of peace by losing 13 (?defenders) of peace? The Pakistani armed forces displayed excellent performance in this connection. Was it a crime if I discouraged sectarianism? Did I commit a crime when I started to practically eliminate unemployment or when I tried to open the doors of employment and prosperity to the poor by laying networks of roads and industries all over the country? Could you call it a crime when I provided housing facilities to the shelterless people? Did I commit a crime when I engaged those youth, who were to take up Kalashnikov rifles due to frustration caused by unemployment, in productive works? Would you call it a crime if I freed the landless peasant laborers from the yoke of slavery and made them the owners of their own land and provided them with an opportunity to live an honorable and respectful life? Was it a crime when I, as a brother, reached the hut of every poor girl who had been victimized? Would you term it a crime if I helped my calamity-affected brothers, sisters, and daughters by touring flood-hit areas and made them feel on several occasions that they were not helpless in their motherland and their prime minister was walking barefoot with them and did not hesitate to carry mud to rebuild their walls which had been washed away by the floods? Was it a crime that I stopped human beings from driving cycle rickshaws like animals and provided them with autorickshaws and yellow cabs to return to normal human life? Would you call it a crime if I resolved provincial disputes for good by reaching a settlement on the 70-year-old problem of sharing river waters and opened ways for agricultural planning? If these things are crimes, then I shall commit such crimes over and over again, rather a thousand times. And even if my blood is sought as a punishment for these crimes, I shall continue to offer my blood but will never flinch from fulfilling the tasks I have undertaken.

My dear countrymen. I consider politics a means of service to the people, the nation, and Islam, and in light of the teachings of my forefathers and elders, I have adopted these very principles of politics. But, regrettably, the type of politics I had to deal with was less decent and more dirty. I also want to tell you today about the type of people I have to deal with. I was taught at home to respect my elders and even after coming to Islamabad I maintained this tradition. But this did not mean that I am subordinate to or dependent on anybody or afraid of anybody. I was threatened that I should abandon my principles and compromise to save my family's business. You will see that attempts will be made to malign me for not compromising. My well-wishers are well-versed in finding faults for the character assassination of anyone.

As much as possible, I have made my affairs and my wishes conform with serving national interests. God willing, my record of future actions will also bear this testimony. With the grace of Almighty God, I am the elected prime minister of this country. I enjoy overwhelming support in the National Assembly. If anybody has a doubt or misgiving, he can test my strength within the National Assembly or outside—wherever he wishes to do so. Such attempts have even been made vigorously for the last few weeks. Such dirty horse trading has taken place that I cannot tell you about it.

Conspiracies were hatched at the center of the dignity of the Federation of Pakistan, which should have been a respectable place for the entire country, as to how to topple your elected prime minister. One provincial governor staying at this center, which symbolizes the federation, is hatching conspiracies against the federal government.

The heirless politician, who failed to find a refuge anywhere, was accepted at the office of the symbol of the Federation of Pakistan. The place, from where I should have received advice on Pakistan's stability, unity, and integrity, asked me not to create difficulties for [Minister of State For Economic Affairs] Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali who had declared Pakistan a terrorist state. I defied it and clearly stated that this person had tried to hurt my nation more than its enemy and I issued the order for his arrest. My heart is burning with the smoldering fire of secrets, but the country's and the national honor and interests do not allow me to divulge them. But, whatever is possible to be told, I would not hide them from you. How shameful it is that when I go abroad in the discharge of my national duties, a storm of conspiracies is raised in my absence. Attempts are made to dishonor me in the presence of my foreign hosts. Is this an insult to me or to Pakistan? Amid applause from the Indian diplomats, Pakistan is declared a terrorist state. Is it politics or treason? The signals for personal rule started to emanate from the place which ought to be the symbol of Pakistan's stability, progress, and prosperity and which ought to be the fountainhead of the efforts for safeguarding democracy and ensuring the welfare and well-being of the people. The apparent moves to destabilize the democratic process had their roots at the same political seat. As if that was not enough, the conspiracy to divide the mother of Pakistan, the Muslim League party, was hatched there itself.

Dear countrymen. As prime minister, I shall only say that—even though there are many things to say which I shall continue to enter into my political will—things were done from the place where it would not have been done. All kinds of pressures were put on me to force me to leave the field. But, I maintained silence only to fulfill my plans which I had started for the progress and prosperity of my people. I thought my country is more

sacred than my ego. My friends and elders also advised me to sacrifice my feelings but not to leave incomplete the works I had started for the naive and innocent people of the motherland, because they had been helpless and neglected in the past and, perhaps, after me there will be none to take care of them. I said to my heart if the broken pieces of your ego can cover the heads of the helpless and poor daughters who have been victims of crimes and brutalities, then this is not a costly bargain. But, my love for my motherland and poor brothers and sisters has proved to be a costly deal. I was called cowardly and weak. I am telling you all these things today. The matter does not end here.

As a punishment for my love for the people and the country, conspiracies were hatched against me to the extent that every third colleague of mine was asked to sow division among National Assembly members and become a prime minister. At least 10 or 15 prime ministers are now seeking ministerial posts in Islamabad at present. What is more, my own brother Shahbaz Sharif was offered the prime ministership. Everybody was lured with an offer of power. Promises were made about ministerial posts and various other facilities were offered. But despite this terrible horse trading [preceding two words in English], my overwhelming support could not be reduced and for this I am thankful to my supporters. And, the nation demands from my colleagues, who had come under the influence of instigation, to return to the fold of their party. The voters in their constituencies also expect the same from them.

Dear countrymen, I am present before you today only to eliminate the state of uncertainty which certain conspirators and adventurists, who have lost hopes in their future, have created by desecrating the respectable seat of Pakistan.

Your government, with the grace of the God, is strong and stable even today. We are fully capable to foil, God willing, the attempt made through these conspiracies to stop the process of nation-building and development by creating fear among domestic and foreign investors. We will not allow anybody to stop the process of nation-building and democracy in Pakistan and if such an attempt is made, then I pose a question to you as to which path I should follow. In such a situation, it is my official as well as moral duty that I give priority to the country's honor and national interests and take every step as dictated by the situation and time for strengthening democratic institutions and seeing to the country's industrial and economic progress. Instead of looking back, I must move forward and become active for the implementation of nation-building and development schemes on which depends the supreme interests and future of the nation. I assure you that I cannot exhibit any deficiency, weakness, or defeatism in this connection. I know that if I commit an act of omission or show weakness or agree to retreat, then it will be an injustice to those millions of people who after living in the darkness of hopelessness and disappointment for 45 years have entered an era of hope and confidence and who are now sure that Pakistan can also be included in the list of developed nations and they can also enjoy the rights and facilities that have only been available to a limited privileged few.

I consider myself answerable to Almighty God, besides the people and my own conscience. Therefore, for the sake of my own personal interests, I shall not backtrack from the steps I have taken. I cannot push the nation toward backwardness and retrogression once again. I cannot commit the crime of pushing another 100 years backwards a nation which is aspiring to enter the 21st century. It is impossible for me to leave incomplete these national reconstruction and development projects which have created a ray of hope in the nation.

The nation is aware that it is not that I want to serve my own selfish interests by completing the projects for agricultural and industrial development and by bringing about an economic revolution; and that is why they trust me. And I cannot break their trust. God willing, I shall not abandon the journey which I have undertaken in spite of difficulties and obstacles in the way. I shall rest only after taking the nation to the destination which I promised during my election campaign in 1990 and for which I am facing the most difficult situation. But, temporary difficulties, God willing, cannot block my path. Political expediencies and compulsions cannot dishearten me. They further embolden and strengthen my resolve and determination instead.

The recent crisis has further strengthened my determination and I am committed, for the sake of the people and God, to act in accordance with my country's needs, the people's aspirations, and official responsibility, ignoring obstacles, pressure, and political benefits. Therefore, I will not resign. I will not dissolve the assemblies. I will not take diktats. I have a majority in the National Assembly and it will remain so, with the blessings of God. But the question is, in spite of the existence of a stable government with majority support in the National Assembly, why have dangers to the economy and the security of Pakistan been created by effecting an atmosphere of uncertainty? Why has an attempt been made to create a crisis in the country? Who is responsible for all of this? I leave the verdict to you. Long Live Pakistan.

Mixed Reaction to Speech

BK1804094593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 17: There was a mixed reaction to Nawaz Sharif's address to the nation on Saturday evening. However those hailing the PM's [Prime Minister's] address outnumbered those who were critical of his speech. Begun Nasim Wali Khan, President Awami National Party NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Parliamentary Party Chief of the Party in the NWFP House, hailed the Prime Minister's address to the nation and said, "Democracy was damaged through conspiracies in the past."

She said "We sided with the present government so as to remove the follies of the past and put the country on the road to complete democracy." She was of the opinion that "although we cannot call the present democracy as exemplary, but we are heading towards the achievements of the better goal." She said "If democracy is not given a chance to flourish, the country will go back to the position where it was fifty (50) years back, she said.

The PPP leader Benazir Bhutto was not available for comments. Her PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] ally, Air Marshal Asghar Khan of Tehrik-e-Esteqlal said he would give his views at a press conference in Karachi tomorrow morning.

Generally, the reaction of the Karachiites was of shock and surprise, for they thought that Nawaz Sharif had only perpetuated a crisis. They feared street agitation against him. There were others, businessmen especially, who thought he had done the wisest thing under the circumstances.

Hamid Nasir Chattha, who is working for a no-confidence motion against the PM in the National Assembly, said the Prime Minister has spawned off a serious constitutional crisis.

Talking to THE MUSLIM, he said "how could the government function in a stalemate that has come about as a result of what the Prime Minister has said in his address to the nation?"

He said that going by the constitution, the President and the Prime Minister have to consult each other frequently on various issues. He wondered as to how the government could function in the atmosphere of lack of trust. He thought that the PM's speech was very disappointing. Unfortunately, he said, a situation has arisen whereby the PM has levelled serious charges of conspiracy against the President as a result of which it is not possible for the two offices to work in cohesion as required by the Constitution.

Mr. Chattha said: "As such in my opinion it is no longer possible for the Federal Government to function in accordance with the Constitution."

Mr. Chattha said that he was surprised how all of a sudden the PM started to find all the evils in the person of the President when only a week ago, he had nominated the President as his candidate for the office of the President of Pakistan for the next term. He said that it is surprising that the PM now says that the President has been conspiring against him for well over a week.

Khurshid Hasan Mir, former Federal Minister and a writer on constitutional matters, said the Prime Minister publicly accused the President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of being the center of conspiracy which means an open fight has started between them.

Calling this an outcome of the "8th Amendment" Mr. Mir an expert constitution writer regretted that "the defenders of 8th Amendment were calling the 8th Amendment a system of checks and balances."

Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Federal Minister for Industries and Culture, lashed out at the Governor Sindh Mehmood Haroon, saying that he cannot win the membership of Zakat Committee but was dreaming of becoming a prime minister of the country. Criticising the activities of old bureaucrats working whole time with the President, Sheikh Rashid said this gang of four was a permanent foe of democracy.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will address a huge public meeting in Rawalpindi Liaqat Bagh in coming two to three days. He said the invitation for first public meeting has been given by him (Sheikh Rashid) to address the people. He said Mehmood Haroon and Ijlal Haider Zaldi were Indian and CIA agents and were waiting for a back door entry into power.

Mehtab Ahmad Khan, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, remarked that the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has exposed the conspiracies being hatched against the solidarity of the country. He said the premier by doing this has presented his case in the court of the people.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, President National People's Party and former Prime Minister of Pakistan commenting on the Prime Minister's address to the nation has demanded that Nawaz Sharif should leave Pakistan and the people of Pakistan alone so that Pakistan can have real democracy instead of dictatorship.

Mr. Jatoi who avoided direct talk with the press and asked a party worker Mr. Shaukat Abbasi to convey his reactions to the press, said the Prime Minister's speech was full of false claims of economic development and false and concocted allegations on the President.

"Nawaz Sharif's loud claims of Pakistan's prosperity are only limited to the prosperity of his own industrial business and of his favourite friends," said Mr. Jatoi.

Mr. Jatoi also condemned the Prime Minister's references to the President and said that when Nawaz Sharif had himself declared the President as "the symbol of Federation of Pakistan" then every Pakistani citizen and every National Assembly member has all the rights to meet the President and identify the government's misdoings and malpractices. "His own speech is a violation of the Constitution and a violation of his loyalty to the Constitution," said Mr. Jatoi.

Commenting on vote of confidence in the National Assembly Mr. Jatoi said that Nawaz Sharif's claims of having full support in the National Assembly is a ridiculous claim considering the fact that his own party MNA's [Members of National Assembly] are resigning one after another. "He even hasn't got the full support and confidence of his family members because one of

Nawaz Sharif's cousins has filed corruption charged against him" said Mr. Jatoi.

Reacting to Nawaz Sharif's speech regarding betterment of poor people Mr. Jatoi said due to the wrong economic policies of the Nawaz Government, the people of Pakistan were caught in a vicious circle of poverty, unemployment and high prices.

Mr. Jatoi said that it was Nawaz Sharif who started direct confrontation with the President and when his party MNA's refused to support him in his race for lust for power and dictatorship he started begging for forgiveness. "Now when he has also failed in this, he is trying to save himself by accusing everyone else of all the misdoings," said Mr. Jatoi.

Cabinet Supports Policies

BK1804143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The federal cabinet has extended full support to the political and economic reforms being pursued by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. A special meeting of the cabinet held in Islamabad today, chaired by the prime minister, endorsed the policy initiatives taken by the prime minister to break the economic stagnation to take the country into the 21st century. The members of the cabinet noted with satisfaction the visible results of these initiatives and urged the prime minister to move ahead in his missionary spirit.

The cabinet expressed deep sense of loss at the sudden demise of the late President Turgut Ozal of Turkey. The prime minister recalled the invaluable contribution of the late Turkish president not only in the development of his country, but also in cementing fraternal bonds between Pakistan and Turkey. The meeting prayed for the departed soul and extended sympathies of the government and people of Pakistan to the government and people of Turkey and to members of the bereaved family.

'Many' Welcome Sharif 'Resolve'

BK1804025693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Many federal ministers, members of the national and provincial assemblies, and prominent politicians have welcomed the resolve reaffirmed by the prime minister in his address to the nation last night to continue his mission to bring about a social and economic revolution in the country. According to the APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], the leaders who have hailed the prime minister's speech include National Assembly Deputy Speaker Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar; Food and Agriculture Minister retired Lieutenant General Majid Malik; Minister for Kashmir Affairs Sardar Mahatab Khan; Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir, the minister for state and frontier region; Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the federal minister for industries and culture; Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs; Azam Khan Hoti, the minister for communications; Federal Health Minister Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi; Senator Subedar Mandokhel; and Senator Abbas Shah.

Senior Federal Minister Aslam Khan Khattak said we should give topmost priority to the country's stability and eschew the path of confrontation. Federal ministers Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Rana Nazir Ahmad, and Shahid Mehdi Nasim have admired the courageous and clear-cut stand taken by the prime minister in his address to the nation.

Many members of the Punjab cabinet have described the prime minister's address to the nation as the reflection of the people's wishes and aspirations. They urged the people to foil the abominable designs of those opportunistic elements which are attempting to destabilize the democratic process and to harm the national unity and integrity. These ministers include Chaudhary Nazir Ahmad, Chaudhary Iqbal, Barrister Usman Ibrahim, and Raja Ashfaq Sarwar.

Begum Nasim Wali Khan, the president of the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] wing of the Awami National Party [ANP] and leader of the ANP parliamentary party in the NWFP assembly, praised the prime minister's address to the nation and said that democracy was harmed through conspiracies in the past. ANP Chief Ajmal Khattak said that his party will support every step taken by the prime minister to strengthen the cause of democracy. Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad has said that the only way to end the crisis is that the president and the prime minister remain within their constitutional limits and the elected institutions continue to function.

Shah Ahmad Noorani, the president of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, has criticized the prime minister's speech. He specifically criticized the prime minister's privatization program and rising prices. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the chief of the National People's Party and member of the National Assembly; and Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the chief of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, have also criticized the prime minister's address to the nation.

Cabinet Offers To Quit

BK1804153493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—The speaker summoned Sunday a special National Assembly session to discuss Pakistan's political crisis, as opposition leaders demanded that the president dissolve the legislature.

Gohar Ayub Khan has called the 217-member house to meet here late Monday, the assembly's secretariat announced, indicating that the session has been requested by the deputies.

Under the constitution one fourth of the total members can request a meeting of the assembly, which is already scheduled to hold its regular spring sitting from Thursday.

Sources said pro-government deputies demanded the session to demonstrate Sharif's parliamentary majority as the tussle between him and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took a turn for the worst Saturday.

The speaker said earlier this month that if the assembly was dissolved he would challenge the action in the Supreme Court, a remark interpreted as reflecting his support for the beleaguered premier.

Maulana Kausar Niazi, leader of the pro-president opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA), said the assembly must be dissolved as the president and prime minister could not work together now.

A dissolution, which will mean the dismissal of Sharif, was also demanded by some other NDA figures including a former Punjab governor, Ghulam Mustafa Khar.

But, main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said her Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) was yet to formulate a stand, adding it would be in line with the "interests of the people and dictates of national security."

She was to chair a crucial meeting of leaders of about half-a- dozen component parties of the PDA here later Sunday.

"The tussle between the president and premier has harmed the country's prestige," she told reporters on arrival here from Karachi.

In a nationwide broadcast Saturday, Sharif accused the presidency of hatching conspiracies to destabilize him and demolish the parliamentary system and vowed to fight the "intrigues."

Meanwhile, Sharif's ministers during a cabinet meeting here Sunday offered to resign as a "token of their complete confidence" in his leadership, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

Appreciating the offer, Sharif said he did not believe in politics of resignations—a reference to eight ministerial colleagues who deserted him—adding that "we have a mandate to serve the people and shall continue to do so."

The premier said Saturday he would neither resign nor dissolve the assembly and would not accept any dictates.

A former close aide to Sharif, meanwhile, resigned as ambassador to Sri Lanka Sunday in protest the premier's attacks on the president.

Hussain Haqqani told reporters he considered Sharif's accusations as an insult to the constitution.

An expected statement from the presidency about the charges levelled by the prime minister was still awaited, amid mounting speculation about dissolution of the assembly.

President Responds, Uses Troops, Meets Officials

Troops Deployed

BK1804161893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—Pakistani troops moved into Islamabad late Sunday, amid strong rumours that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had ordered the dissolution of the National Assembly, witnesses said.

Two truckloads of soldiers were seen posted outside the National Assembly building, they said.

The troops also took position outside the state-run television and the main gates of the station were closed, as reporters were called to the presidency.

The power tussle between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the president took a turn for the worst when the prime minister launched a blistering attack on the head of state Saturday.

In a nationwide broadcast, the 43-year-old premier accused Ishaq Khan, 78, of hatching "intrigues" to oust him and destroy the parliamentary system.

The row between the two top men started after Sharif unveiled a plan in February to curtail the powers of the presidency, including discretionary authority under which the president can dissolve the assembly.

Ishaq Khan had first used this provision in August 1990 to sack the 20-month-old government of Benazir Bhutto, who has headed the main opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance ever since.

National Assembly Summoned

LD1804163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The Speaker has summoned the National Assembly to meet in the Parliament House in Islamabad tomorrow at five p.m. [1200 GMT]. According to a press release of the National Assembly Secretariat, the Speaker has summoned the session in exercise of his powers under Article 54, Clause Three of the Constitution.

President Addresses Nation

BK1804230593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1914 GMT 18 Apr 93

[President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's address to the nation; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. As you are aware, a protracted very distressing situation of anxiety, chaos, and uncertainty is being experienced in our dear homeland. I have been making a critical review of the entire situation with extreme anguish and utomost patience. On several occasions, my concern reached the limit of my patience. But I have been pursuing a safe path in the larger interest of the nation and with the hope that finally the powers of prudence and moderation will prevail. But in return, due to greed of power, those who stake the nation's overall interest were not ready to desist from destructive tendencies despite being given an opportunity and warning. And instead of taking steps to mend their ways and to rectify the situation, they decided to put the country into an extremely critical situation. You would have somewhat guessed the stubbornliness, obduracy, and lack of farsightedness from yesterday's speech of the former prime minister. While making his speech, although on one side he tried to cover up the misdeeds of his government, on the other, he dared to shatter the country's constitution, its supreme constitutional authority, security of the beloved motherland, the dignity of the God-gifted country, its good name, and [word indistinct]. If the matter was confined to criticism of my own self alone, it would not have mattered, because any human being, no matter whichever high post he assumes, is not above criticism. But the former prime minister by his speech tried to hit all the constitutional foundations on which the infrastructure of the federation of Pakistan and our nascent democracy stands. I could not sit as a silent spectator any further. To do so would have been committing the crime of violating my promise and betraying the people. In any case, I cannot commit such a major crime. To retrieve my beloved country and nation from the whirlpool of miseries and untold difficulties is my official duty. The criticisms of the opportunists and the accusations of the pretenders of the friends of people will not deter me from discharging my duties. In my half a century's life of dedication in the service of the nation, I never let my decisons be affected by personal advantage and interest and [word indistinct]. Nor can I do so at this stage of my age, especially at a time when the larger interest of our beloved country and the future of the democratic system is at stake.

My dear countrymen, the administrative structure of Pakistan has been founded on the recognized principles of a state under a federal setup. And for the success of any federal system, it is essential that the center and the provinces should be discharging their duties within their constitutional jurisdiction. But the situation in our country today is that most of the federal units—provinces—are fully protesting against the attitude and [word indistinct] of the federal government. Council of common interest has been completely paralyzed [words indistinct] despite wide publicity on it.

Complaints have been received more or less from all the provinces about the role of the National Finance Corporation. The former prime minister personally intervened and issued orders in connection with the smallest of the small matters, which should have been settled at the level of junior officials of provincial governments, as a result of which the entire administrative machinery became paralyzed and the system of sharing responsibilities, which is considered as the key to effective performance of the administration, was found in disarray.

The government had talked very loudly about its economic reforms, but people who have the perception of economic matters and who have the capability to realize the far-reaching effects know that these policies were taking the country to such a pit of destruction whence they would probably have no way to return. Wealth was being accumulated in the hands of a few families. A few favorites were monopolizing the country's productive resources. In a frenzy of making the rich richer, it was being forgotten mercilessly that the poor are becoming poorer. In the context of progress, the motorway was being described as the government's biggest feat. But this so-called great project is much more tainted with allegations of dubiousness, notoriety, and corruption than its size. Foreign investment was also much talked about, but the fact is that despite investment conferences organized through massive expenditure and in contrary to the false claims the real rate of foreign investment in the country for the last two and half year amounts to nothing.

The privatization policy was presented as a beacon of the revolution. The encouragement of the private sector is definitely a good step, but completely free economy is the path of ruination not progress. That is why even in those countries that are considered champions of the free economy, the trend is emerging to strengthen the public sector along with the private sector. Britain symbolized this ideology; the recent U.S. election was also won on this slogan. But the thinking of economic experts of the former government was quite strange. They were trying to wash hands of the sensitive departments like telephone and railways, factories producing essential items like cement and edible oil, and organizations like Pakistan International Airlines and Water and Power Development Authority, which are the backbone of the country's economy. The organizations of national importance like the National Shipping Corporation did not escape from this [word indistinct] and only a very small portion of its income was added to the national exchequer. Inflation soared skyward as a result of the policy of this mismanagement, blind nepotism, and giving privileges to one's own loved ones. When talking about the poor, even the middle class families found it difficult to make both ends meet. The availability of honorable employment and services became so difficult that post-graduate youths were forced to become taxi drivers, sacrificing their conscience and honor. Instead of establishing a reformist society in the country in accordance with the Islamic principle which by itself could arrange for the necessities of the poor and deprived, charity cheques were publicly distributed in the glitter of TV lights and cameras. That is how the cheap publicity was, perhaps, achieved, but why the hearts of those in power did not

fear the renunciation of the prophet's teachings that donate in such a way that when something is given by one hand, another hand should not know.

The law and order situation is such that robberies are committed in broad daylight. One feels safe neither within the four walls of one's home, nor while traveling by any means. What to talk of buses—even trains are being looted. Illegal ammunition is abundant. The recent improvement of the law and order situation in Sindh was also due to the presence of the armed forces. The government had at some time started the campaign of recovering illegal arms, but the administrative machinery was so ineffective that other than a few hundred rifles, nothing else could be recovered, and the government bashfully gave up the campaign. The voice was raised against the Kalashnikov culture, but such was the double standard that the head of the administration with his own hands kept on issuing orders of supplying Kalashnikov rifles to his sons, brothers, and other family members. The number of incidents of dishonoring daughters of the poor during the last two and half years, exceeded, perhaps, the number in many decades. But how unfortunate it is that Mr. prime minister with a view to gain personal publicity exposed the dishonored women and their family members in the media and made a spectacle out of them in front of the entire nation. He forgot that the protection of honor is not done by mere consoling after it is lost, but the government has to establish the supremacy of justice and the rule of law for it. But instead of giving serious attention to it, the government adopted the mentality of governance of kings and princess. They [words indistinct] by the ever changing color of their kingly mentality of own likes and dislikes and giving benefit to people of their linking instead of the requirements of law and justice.

One after another, financial scandals surfaced in the country. The cooperative scandal and Taj Company scandal ruined hundreds of families. When their grievances were published in the press, pricking the conscience of the rulers, attempts were made to suppress the voice of unbridled tongues for their fault of showing the courage to express themselves. Cases of treason were set up, and the right to freedom of expression was trampled down. Not only this, it became a common practice to browbeat journalists for their criticism and the innocent crime of expressing one's opinion and to harass them by various ways by intelligence agencies. Sometimes advertisements of some newspapers were stopped. Sometimes supply of newsprint was made difficult for some others, and yet some others were involved in income tax cases. The press apparently remained free, but internally attempts were made to chain it by every means. It is a different thing that the [words indistinct] and they will continue to write (?lofty) episodes.

The civil service constitutes the core of the administration of a country. They are not anyone's personal servants, but servants of the people. And they are to fulfill their duties according to rules and regulations. But people having kingly mentality used the civil service as their personal slaves, considering them as their own (?assistants). The dictatorial mentality reached such a peak that the prime minister imposed restrictions on his cabinet ministers meeting the country's president. The restriction was definitely against the Constitution. Therefore, some brave ministers ignored this directive. So, you can imagine from this restriction how much the prime minister cared for the Constitution and the accepted principles and conventions of the [word indistinct] system of government.

The worst example of the disrespect shown by the prime minister to the Constitution, constitutional convention, nobility, and civilized manners was witnessed by the nation itself last night when a record was set for using government media for character assassination and mudslinging. This was the first time in the history of Pakistan that a prime minister described the president of the country as a conspirator, dirty, and unholy by so brazenly defying the Constitution. There is hardly any example in the entire history of the world's parliamentary democracy for such rudeness and inconsistent and absurd character assassination. And what is amazing is that in the emotion of delivering the speech he forgot the fact that this was the same president to whom he paid immense tribute a number of times, and even a few days ago, he nominated him as his party's next presidential candidate against his own will and got the decision endorsed by the entire cabinet.

In connection with the internal situation, I have briefly mentioned the corruption, incompetence, and other evils. It will not be inappropriate if I present you a brief sketch of the country's foreign policy scene resulting from wrong policies of the government and lack of farsightedness. Today we lost our honor and dignity in the comity of nations, and we are almost isolated and alone. Even our close friends avoid supporting us at any issue at the international level. Bloodshed continued in Kabul due to the hasty action by the government. New dangers to the country's security and stability have been created, and the enemy is out to inflict a heavy blow to our best national interests. Time and again, I identified the government's mistakes, persistently told them both orally and in writing to amend themselves. But they always considered my suggestions as undue interference. Probably their arrogant mentality is habituated with considering sincere guidance as an insult. This is the reason that in his speech yesterday, he arrogantly said that he would not accept my dictation. I never gave him any dictation. Of course, I gave him some suggestions for better administration of the government whenever I felt necessary in keeping with my constitutional responsibility. It was totally at his discretion to accept or reject them. Nevertheless, it was my constitutional duty to advise the government, and I could not afford to be ashamed before God and His creature by ignoring my duty. In my life, I adhered to rules and regulations, and I cannot deviate from my principles for fear of anyone's displeasure.

Tell me if I ask the government to take appropriate action on the conspicuous statement by the late Pakistani Army chief's aggrieved and bereaved widow in which she referred to some people by name for their being involved: Can it be called interference in governmental affairs? On the one hand, if this is my moral and religious duty, then on the other it is also my constitutional obligation as well to make arrangement to redress the grievances of the oppressed. How can people who are used to see everything from the perspective of their own interests realize these facts?

The prime minister's anger over many such sincere and serious pieces of advice was behind the gradual bitterness in relations between me and the prime minister. I will now not hide from my dear countrymen that the decisive chapter of Mr. Prime Minister's anger and bitterness against me started when in exercising my constitutional power, I appointed an honorable and talented member of the Pakistan Armed Forces [General Abdul Waheed] as the chief of the army staff. And this was not the first occasion. He also cried foul at the time of the appointment of the late General Asif Nawaz, and later on carried out unwarranted interference in the discharge of responsibilities of the late general as a result of which serious tension was created many times between the government and the General Headquarters.

My dear countrymen, there is much to tell you and you will slowly know all about it. Briefly, I will say that my conscience is satisfied that I did not spare a moment [words indistinct] and took no decision in haste or in emotion. However, now the situation has deteriorated to the limit and the mass resignation of the members of the opposition and of considerable numbers from the treasury benches, including several cabinet ministers, from the National Assembly has taken place and the National Assembly has lost its representative status. If even now I did not discharge my responsibility as the custodian of the Pakistan Constitution and let this state created in the name of Islam continue in the crisis, what would I answer to God on the day of judgment? That is why in exercise of my constitutional powers, I have dissolved the national Assembly, as a result of which the Nawaz Sharif government has been dismissed. The constitutional, political, and economic crisis in the country and the climate surrounding it and the threat posed to Pakistan in the global perspective requires that the people should be given a chance once again to elect a capable and active leadership, intelligently keeping in mind their past experience. New elections will be held within 90 days as required by the Constitution, and all steps possible under human control will be taken to make them free and fair by all standards.

For the interim period, I have appointed Balakh Sher Mazari as the caretaker prime minister, who has taken the oath of his office a short time ago. I hope that he will discharge his important and crucial responsibilities during this interim period to the best of his capability. The decision to dissolve the National Assembly was not a pleasant one, but the interests of the nation and the country and the future of the democratic system are such a great objective that even the bitterest of pills must be swallowed. People come and go; the important element is the country. Our survival depends on the country's security and prosperity, and it is also the guarantee of our national existence. May God keep Pakistan secure, and may democracy flourish in Pakistan, as democracy is inevitable for Pakistan. Occasional crises and people deviating from the path of moderation and with greed for power cannot shake the nation's unflinching faith in democracy and the people's firm commitment to the democratic system. Democracy is our destination and we, God willing, will always be in pursuit of this destination. May God give us wisdom, intelligence, and self-confidence so that in this national endeavor we accomplish all our tasks with success.

Amen. Long live Pakistan.

Dissolves Parliament, Dismisses PM

BK1804195093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1801 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Special News Bulletin]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed the prime minister and his cabinet. Addressing a news conference at the President House in Islamabad tonight, the president announced the dissolution of the National Assembly.

[Begin Ishaq Khan recording in English] Bismillah al-rahman al- rahim [In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate] The president, having considered the situation in the country, the events that have taken place in the circumstances, the contents and consequences of the prime minister's speech on 17th April 1993, and among others for the reasons mentioned below, is of the opinion that the government of the federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary.

A. The mass resignations of the members of the opposition and of considerable numbers from the treasury benches, including several ministers, inter-alia showing their desire to seek fresh mandate from the people has resulted in the government of the federation and the National Assembly losing the confidence of the people and that the dissention therein has nullified its mandate.

B. The prime minister had a meeting with the president in March and April and the last on 14th April 1993, when the president urged him to take positive steps to resolve the grave international and national issues, and the problems confronting the country and the nation, was anxiously looking forward to the announcement of concrete measures by the government to improve the situation. Instead, the prime minister, in his speech on 17th April 1993, chose to divert the people's attention by making false and malicious allegations against the president of Pakistan, who is head of state and represents the unity of the republic. The tenor of the speech was that

the government could not be carried on in accordance with the provision of the Constitution. And, he advanced his own reasons and theory for the same, which reasons and theory in fact are unwarranted and misleading. The prime minister tried to cover up the failures and defaults of the government, although he was repeatedly apprised of the real reason in this behalf, which he even accepted and agreed to rectify by specific measures on urgent basis. Further, the prime minister's speech is tantamount to a call for agitation and, in any case, the speech and his conduct amounts to subversion of the constitution.

C. Under the Constitution, the federation and the provinces are Required to exercise their executive and legislative authority as demarcated and defined and there are specific provision in institutions to ensure its working in the interest of the integrity, sovereignty, solidarity, and well being of the federation and to protect the autonomy granted to the provinces by creating specific constitutional institutions consisting of federal and provincial representatives. But the government of the federation has failed to uphold and protect this as required in that, inter alia, 1) the Council of Common Interest under Article 153, which is responsible only to the parliament, has not discharged its constitutional functions to exercise its powers as required by Article 153 and 154 and in relation to Article 161, and particularly in the context of privatization of industries in regulation to item three of part two of the federal legislative list and item 34 of the concurrent legislative list.[sentence as heard]. This, I am afraid, has become a little technical and we will have to consult the Constitution and [words indistinct] will improve in scope of what I am saying is for this particular section is concerned; 2) the National Economic Council under Article 156 and its (?subjective) committee has been largely bypassed, inter alia in the formulation of claims in respect of financial, commercial, social and economic policies.

3) Constitutional powers, rights and functions of the provinces have been usurped, frustrated and interfered with in violation of inter-alia Article 97.

D. Maladministration, corruption and nepotism have reached such proportions in the Federal Government, its various bodies, authorities, and other corporations, including banks—supervised and controlled by the Federal Government—the lack of transparency in the process of privatisation and in the disposal of public general properties, which do violate the requirements of the oath of the public representatives together with the prime minister, the ministers and the ministers of state prescribed in the Constitution and prevent the Government from functioning in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

E. The functionaries, authorities and agencies of the government under the direction, control, collaboration and [word indistinct] of the prime minister and ministers unleashed a reign of terror against the opponents of the government, including political and personal rivals, relatives and media men, thus creating a situation wherein the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provision of the Constitution and the law.

F. In violation of the provisions of the Constitution, 1) the cabinet has not been taken into confidence or decided upon numerous ordinances and matters of policy; 2) federal ministers have for a period even been called upon not to heed the president; 3) the sources of the agencies of the government of the federation, including statutory corporations, authorities and banks, have been misused for political purposes and for personal gains; 4) there has been unnecessary wastage in dissipation of public funds with the cost to the national exchequer with legal or valid justification resulting in increased deficit financing and indebtedness—both domestic and international—adversely affecting the national interest, including defense; 5) Articles 240 and 242 have been disregarded in respect of the civil services of Pakistan.

G. The serious allegations made by Begum Asaf Nawaz [wife of former Army Chief Asif Nawaz] as to the high-handed treatment meted out to her husband, the late Army chief of staff, and the further allegation as to the circumstances culminating in his death indicate that the highest functionaries of the government have been subverting the authority of the Armed Forces and the machinery of the government in the Constitution itself.

H. The government of the federation for the above reasons, inter- alia, is not in a position to meet properly and positively the threat to the security and integrity of Pakistan and the grave economic situation confronting the country, necessitating the requirement of a fresh mandate from the people of Pakistan.

Now, therefore, I, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in exercise of the powers conferred under Clause 2-D of the Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and all other powers enabling me, hereby dissolve the National Assemblies with immediate effect and dismiss the prime minister and the cabinet which would cease to hold office forthwith. [end recording]

Mazari Named Acting PM

BK1804172893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly late Sunday, effectively sacking Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The dissolution came as army troops took up positions in Islamabad, as the three-month-old power struggle between the president and the prime minister intensified.

Exercising discretionary powers granted to him under the constitution, Ishaq Khan appointed Balakh Sher Mazari, a politician from Punjab's Dera Ghazi District, as Pakistan's acting prime minister.

The president had accused Sharif of indulging in corruption and of malpractices in his running of the government.

Acting Prime Minister Profiled

BK1804201093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1932 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—Pakistan's newly appointed acting prime minister Balakh Sher Mazari is a non-controversial personality with a lackluster political career.

The grey-haired Mazari, in his 60s, was sworn in to the premiership by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after the dismissal of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif late Sunday.

The acting government head is described as a soft-spoken tribal chieftain from the southern Dera Ghazi Khan district in Punjab province.

Mazari's appointment marks the first time a member of an ethnic Baluch tribe of Mazari has risen to a high political office in Pakistan's 45-year history.

Mazari's younger brother, Sher Baz Mazari, has been more active in politics and led his own liberal National Democratic Party in the 1970s.

The two brothers had jointly supported late Fatima Jinnah, sister of Pakistani founding father Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in the presidential race against military ruler Mohammad Ayub Khan in the 1960s.

The caretaker premier has held seats in previous assemblies, but has not previously held any important administrative position.

Mazari was returned to the National Assembly in October 1990 from his native district on the ticket of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, which is headed by Sharif.

Bhutto, Others Meet With President

BK1804174493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1600 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at President House in Islamabad today. During the meeting, matters of national importance were discussed. Later, National People's Party President Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan leader Retired Lieutenant General K.M. Azhar also called on the president at President House and discussed matters of national importance.

Bhutto Claims Sharif Brought Country to 'Collapse'

BK1904131793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto has said that assemblies have been dissolved and a national government has been formed to take the country out of its present desperate situation and to safeguard Pakistan's integrity.

This she said at a Press conference after the dissolution of assemblies and the appointment of a national government by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Sunday. Begum Nusrat Bhutto was sitting beside her. The PPP leader said amid loud cheers of her party workers that "We have decided to go to the people again and seek their mandate to save the country from any further destabilisation. We have gone into the caretaker government to give the nation a better future."

Ms Bhutto said that it was the principled stand of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], NDA [National Democratic Alliance] and it was also demanded through the platform of the APC [All-Party Conference] that the present assemblies be dissolved, a government of national consensus be formed which should hold free and fair elections. "We hope now that a national government has been formed, we can go back to the people and take them into confidence. With their support, we shall be able to put Pakistan back on rails and to bring back its lost credibility due to the wrong policies of Nawaz Sharif government."

When asked how did she compare her government's dissolution with the present situation, she said that the present scenario was much more serious. Ministers were resigning from the federal cabinet and the government had failed to tackle any issue properly. Three factors had badly affected Pakistan's position at the international level. India was levelling charges against our country of planning bomb attacks. The United States was contemplating declaring Pakistan a terrorist state and the arms supplies from other countries was hopeless. The external pressures coupled with an internally unstable government had brought the country to almost a collapse.

The opposition was always demanding that the just-dismissed government was leading the country from one crisis to another but the present spate of resignations by federal ministers proved to be the last straw. Said the PPP leader: "We consider Pakistan's inegrity above everything and by seeking a mandate from the people, we would be in a position to bring back the lost glories."

Ms Bhutto was presiding over the party's Central Executive Committee meeting when she was contacted by the Presidency that the President wished to see him. She immediately postponed the meeting till today (Monday) at 11:00 a.m. and went to the President's House. She was accompanied by Asif Zardari, Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari and Aftab Sherpao. In the meeting with the President in which she discussed the perilous political, the PPP's resignations were also handed which numbered 41 [sentence as published] . The total figure of resignations submitted to the President was over 100.

Ms Bhutto's arrival in the capital and her meeting with the President led to the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif's government. After the one-hour meeting as she came out

of the Presidency, journalists spotted her and stopped her Pajero being driven by Aftab Sherpao. She got a little bit of a surprise seeing journalists there and did not want to talk to them at that moment. So it was said that she would be seeing them after an hour at her residence. The time was 07:30 p.m. Journalists followed her vehicle but she did not go straight to her house and instead visited the residence of Malik Allah Yar, the son of former Nawab of Kalabagh. She spent about half an hour there and held important talks with some people. By now some journalists had lost them had gone to her house.

Interestingly, the house was situated just near the Turkish embassy, where Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was coming to record his condolences over Turgut Ozal's death. Some journalists thought that the two may meet each other, speculating that Benazir's talks with the President might have failed. But soon she appeared from the house and went Sindh House to discuss the caretaker of that province with Governor Mehmood A Haroon.

This meant beyond doubt that the President was going to dissolve assemblies and Ms Bhutto was finalising details with various leaders. Returning to her residence, a group of newsmen who was still following her like a shadow till then, was told at 9:15 by Naheed Khan, secretary to Ms Bhutto that the President was addressing a press conference at 9:30 p.m. at the President's House. So the journalists were asked to come back after President's Press conference which they did. Asif Zardari looked happy as ever and told journalists that his baby girl was fine.

Responding to questions, she said that let the President decide about the period of elections. When asked about the Eighth Amendment, Ms Bhutto said that how could the PPP take a stand on it when not even a bill was put forward to repeal it. About the accountability process of the former rulers, she said once the national government starts functioning fully, it can take all such decisions. Farooq Leghari was standing by her side and was being congratulated by everyone for becoming a caretaker minister. Earlier in the day, when she arrived at the Islamabad airport a warm welcome was accorded to her by the central and local PPP leaders and workers. Thousands of PPP workers had gathered at the airport to have a glimpse of their leader. The PPP slogans and the workers were back in their typical festive mood.

Meanwhile, caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari called on Benazir Bhutto and finalised details of the caretaker setups of centre and the provincial government.

Bhutto 'Lieutenant' Joins Caretaker Cabinet

BK1804200193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1902 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly late Sunday and sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, accusing him of corruption and malpractice.

Addressing a late night press conference as troops took up positions at key installations in Islamabad, Ishaq Khan also announced the appointment of Balakh Sher Mazari as the acting prime minister.

A close lieutenant [of] Sharif's arch rival Benazir Bhutto, who heads the main opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA), also joined Pakistan's caretaker cabinet, officials said.

Farooq Leghari, who was deputy leader of the opposition in the dissolved National Assembly, was sworn in along with Hamid Nasir Chattha who staged a revolt against Sharif late last month.

Chattha and seven other ministers had quit Sharif's cabinet and formed a rebel faction in the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), blocking his bid to take over the presidency of the party.

The president, reading a dissolution proclamation, said: "I hereby dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect and dismiss the Prime Minister and the cabinet, who shall cease to hold the office forthwith."

Under the constitution, general elections must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly. The president, however, has not yet set a date for polls.

The dissolution came at the head of a nearly three-month-old bitter tussle between the 78-year-old president and Sharif, 43, who had earlier promised to curtail sweeping powers granted to the president under the constitution.

Sharif was replaced by Mazari from Punjab's Dera Ghazi Khan district, who is a PML member and regarded as non-controversial. He also has support from former premier and main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto who leads the Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA).

Ishaq Khan said the dissolution was necessary after the "mass resignation" of deputies belonging to the PDA.

He added that in addition to the "mass resignation of the members of the opposition" a "considerable number" from the treasury benches, including several ministers, had also resigned.

The president said the resignations "nullified" the mandate of the assembly elected in October 1990 and showed a desire to "seek fresh mandate" from the people.

The dissolution order followed a meeting between the president and Bhutto whose opposition alliance had some 45 members in the 217- member dissolved assembly.

The president accused Sharif of having conducted a reign of terror against personal rivals and the media as well as indulging in corruption, nepotism and other malpractices in running his government.

Sharif's dimissal came almost 24 hours after his blistering attack against the president on Saturday in which he accused Ishaq Khan of hatching a conspiracy to destabilise his 29-month-old government.

Ishaq Khan described his speech as subversion of the constitution.

It was the second time in three years that Ishaq Khan has employed his discretionary power as president to dissolve parliament, after first sacking Benazir Bhutto in August 1990 on similar charges.

The power to dissolve parliament was been conferred to the presidency under Article 58 of the constitution amended by the late military ruler General Mohammed Ziaul Haq in 1985.

Sharif To Challenge 'Illegal' Dismissal

BK1804205293 Hong Kong AFP in English 2044 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 19 (AFP)—Sacked prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday declared his dismissal illegal and said he would challenge in court the move by President Ishaq Khan that relieved him of his post. Sharif also countered the presidential order for his dismissal, demanding Ishaq Khan's immediate resignation.

"I have made it clear this action is unlawful. We will challenge it," Sharif said just hours after the president dissolved the National Assembly late Sunday and sacked Sharif, following nearly three months of political standoff. Sharif, who was in his official residence until past midnight, told a news conference that he would "go to the court as soon as possible."

The ousted premier also claimed that newly-appointed acting Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari had made an agreement with Ishaq Khan two months ago to take over the premiership. "This shows the president was conspiring against our elected government for the past several months," he said. "Such a person does not deserve to stay in the sacred house of the president for a single moment."

Sharif said the president had selected ministers in the new caretaker government from "the same clique whose leader he dismissed two and a half years ago after declaring it corrupt." In addition to Mazari, a close aide of main opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) leader Benazir Bhutto was named to a caretaker cabinet.

Farooq Leghari, who was deputy leader of the opposition in the dissolved national assembly, was sworn in along with Hamid Nasir Chattha who staged a revolt against Sharif late last month. Chattha and seven other ministers had quit the cabinet and formed a rebel faction in Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), blocking his bid to take over the presidency of the party.

Sharif said the dissolution was announced after parliamentary speaker Gohar Ayub Khan had summoned a session of the National Assembly to meet here Monday. "We wanted to show our strength in the House," Sharif said, "but the president was scared and he did not allow us to demonstrate the majority."

The ousted premier's law minister, Abdul Ghafoor, earlier said the presidential action was "unconstitutional."

New Prime Minister, Two Other Ministers Sworn In

BK1904022293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] At a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad last night, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath of office of the acting prime minister to Mir Balakh Sher Mazari. Hamid Nasir Chatha and Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari were sworn in as federal ministers. Those present at the ceremony included General Shamim Alam Khan, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, and Army Chief Gen. Abdul Waheed.

Speaker Files Petition Against Dissolution

BK1904080693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Pakistan president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has dismissed the Nawaz Sharif government and dissolved the National Assembly. Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari, a member of the dissolved assembly, has been sworn in as the caretaker prime minister. Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha, who was the first to resign from the Nawaz Sharif government, and Mr. Farooq Leghari, a member of the Pakistan People's Party, are among the members of the new cabinet. Mr. Mazari's interim government, according to reports, consisted of loyalists of the president and also some supporters of Ms. Benazir Bhutto. President Ishaq Khan has fixed the 14th of July as the date for the country's general elections.

The Pakistan army chief has said that the sudden developments have nothing to do with the army. BBC has quoted him as saying that it is for the people and the courts to decide the issue.

The dismissed prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, says he will challenge his removal by the president in the Supreme Court. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, Mr. Sharif described his removal as unconstitutional. Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, welcomed fresh elections.

In another development, Pakistan's ousted speaker of the National Assembly filed a petition in the high court today against the dissolution of the house by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Officials said in Islamabad that the hearing is slated for tomorrow. Our Islamabad correspondent reports that several battalions of the army are patrolling the main streets of Islamabad and guarding key installations, including radio and television.

National Assembly Elections Slated for 14 July

BK1904022893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Elections to the National Assembly will be held on 14 July this year. An official announcement in Islamabad said the president has fixed the election date in the exercise of his constitutional powers.

Life 'Normal', Political Crisis Effects Economy

BK1904075693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 19 Apr 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, April 19 (AFP)—Pakistan plunged into a new era of uncertainty Monday following the dramatic dismissal of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and dissolution of the National Assembly.

The extreme move by powerful President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, late Sunday also jolted the country's fragile democracy, analysts said here.

The ouster climaxed a three-month-long struggle for power between Ishaq Khan and Sharif, the 43-year old industrialist-turned politician who in an abortive bid to assert himself, had vowed to trim the president's sweeping powers. [passage omitted]

The action could have both political and economic impact, analysts said. [passage omitted]

Despite the presence of troops, life went on as normal early Monday but the crisis was reflected by an immediate slump in the stock market, eroding business confidence.

Business circles expressed worries over the fate of the ambitious liberalisation programme launched by Sharif, who had made the reform package the cornerstone of his policy.

Though Sharif earned bureaucratic criticism of his breezy privatisation and denationalisation measures, selling some 100 state units in two years, thousands of common people benefitted from his welfare schemes.

He introduced easy loans from commercial banks to enable unemployed educated youths to own taxi cabs and enter small business.

Pakistani roads were flooded with new public transport vehicles and private companies mushroomed filling the roads with brand new buses and vans connecting big cities and remote towns.

As a man with economic vision, he laid special emphasis on improving infrastructure, modernised the telephone system and started building a network of roads with plans to link Pakistan to the newly independent Central Asian republics.

He also commissioned work on the construction of a second port at Gwadar in less-developed Baluchistan province as part of his dream to take Pakistan into 21st century as a propserous nation.

A question mark now hangs over the fate of the ambitious economic agenda, including his efforts to attract foreign investment, which had involved red tape slashing in most fields and assuring 100 percent equity and profit repatriation.

His economic managers boasted that the policy had fetched one billion dollars, a claim disputed by Ishaq Khan who painted a grim picture of the economy.

The dismissal came only five days ahead of a 51-nation conference of Islamic foreign ministers which Sharif was to open at Karachi early next week, and while Pakistan holds a one month presidency of the United Nations Security Council as a non permanent member.

Dissolution 'Rape of the Constitution'

BK1904083993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 19 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "President Ishaq's Second Constitutional Coup"]

[Text] As was feared President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has in less than 24 hours responded to the public allegations by prime minister (against the use of President House as the centre of horse trading against his government) by dissolving the assemblies, dismissing the government of prime minister and appointing a caretaker government under Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari. This was done under the powers available to the president to dissolve the assemblies under clause 58(2)(b) of the Constitution ostensibly because in his opinion "the government of the federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary" but actually because of a knee-jerk response to what Mr. Nawaz Sharif had said last night and alleged how the president had been seeking to remove him from office through intrigues and manipulations.

The April 18 'constitutional coup' of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is the second by him during the past 32 months and the third since the Constitution was redrafted in 1985 incorporating in it the controversial 8th amendment giving the president the powers to dissolve the assemblies at his discretion. The first time assemblies were dissolved was on May 29, 1988 when late president Zia sent packing home the National Assembly and the government of late prime minister Muhammad Khan Junejo on more or less similar charges. This order was later declared null by the Supreme Court and although neither the Junejo government was restored nor the assemblies reactivated, general elections were held on party basis during that year and the democratic process put rails when PPP [Pakistan People's Party] of Benazir Bhutto emerged as the single largest party in the newly elected house.

President Ishaq's rationale for the dissolution of the assemblies is no more than deja vu and is no more convincing than the rationale behind previous dismissals. The presidential charge sheet is all too familiar levelling charges of violations of the Constitution, massive corruption, breakdown of the governmental machinery et al.

Whether the president charges against Sharif government stick or not in public perception and whether they are upheld by the country's superior courts where they are almost certainly likely to be challenged is of academic interest for the lawyers and constitutional experts. As for the common man and the nation is concerned, it has to pay for the damage done to the system and consequent instability and uncertainty and even increased political confrontations which will henceforth grip the country. The nation is bound to enter into a new and possibly dangerous political phase which can lead to anywhere, almost anywhere and anytime.

President Ishaq has to answer a number of difficult questions. The speaker Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan had summoned the National Assembly today (Monday) at 5.00 PM; could the assembly be dissolved after its session had been convened? Did a couple of resignations of ministers from the cabinet and some assembly members referred to by the president warrant such a drastic action against the government? After all who was behind instigating these resignations? How can President Ishaq unilaterally declare that Prime Minister Nawaz's address to the nation on April 17th amounted to "subversion of the Constitution"? If that was subversion then what the president has just said is no less than the rape of the Constitution itself.

To make the spurious allegations of Begum late general Asif Nawaz that her husband's death was a case of political murder as a basis for the dismissal of assemblies is to go to the extent of sheer senility and perversion and even contempt of the Supreme Court. After the prime minister promptly appointed a three-member judicial commission consisting of the Supreme Court judges and gave them one month to complete their report how can the president say that his advice to the government was not heeded and it was misconstrued as interference? This was the most bizarre of all the excuses the president could come out with. Other reasons cited by the president including the non-convening of the CCI [Council of Common Interest] meeting, bypassing the ECNEC [Executive Committee of National Economic Council] in the formulation of developmental plans, encroachment upon provincial autonomy, lack of transparency in privatisation and massive wastage of funds etc seems to have been lifted verbatim from the previous similar charges made in the dissolution order and fail to convince anyone.

The president clearly over-reacted in anger to settle a personal score. His action has nothing to do with upholding democracy or protecting the Constitution much that he would like the nation to believe in him. He referred to his last meeting with the prime minister and reminded the people that the prime minister, instead of addressing some urgent national and international issue, and reverting to the president about their resolution, subverted the constitution by going public. This is the argument of a sick mind. Why did the president himself not make public what those issues were which he wanted the PM to address, so that the people could judge for themselves whether the PM could really address them and whether the president was competent in the first instance to address them, or was it a trap?

The questions are many and varied; the answers are scanty and sketchy. The president has exercised his draconian constitutional authority in such an indecent haste that it will be hard for him to escape its odium. The charges levelled by the PM against him a day earlier already seem to have stuck. Instead of seeking to unstick the charges, he has allowed to drag himself more in the mud and dirt. It is unlikely that he will now come clean out of it.

The president has done his worst. It is now for democratic forces to rise and challenge through all available legal and constitutional means the president's coup. The speaker Mr. Gohar Ayub had vowed that he would not take lying down the dissolution of assemblies. Democratic forces of country unit; you have nothing to lose but your losses. The president is only wearing the clothes of a lion stolen from a dictator by accident. He does not possess a lion's heart. All democracy loving forces must understand this.

Army Chief on National Assembly Dissolution

BK1904090193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Army Chief General Abdul Waheed has said it is not for the Army to decide if the dissolution of Assemblies was legal and constitutional. The Chief of Army Staff occupied one of the front seats, along with Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Shamim Alam Khan and Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Masood Hatif, in the Presidency hall where the caretaker Prime Minister and two-member cabinet took oath.

Awami National Party Supports Sharif

BK1904091793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Awami National Party's [ANP] Begum Nasim Wali Khan termed dissolution of the Assemblies killing of the democratic institutions. Talking to THE NATION telephone from her Wali Bagh residence Sunday evening, Begum Nasim Wali Khan said that they had struggled a lot to save the assemblies but in vain. She said that despite their hectic efforts, no one was ready to bring flexibility in his stand. However, she said that again the democratic institutions were killed through a brutal way. Replying to a question, Begum Nasim Wali Khan reaffirmed her party stand of

supporting dismissed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his efforts for strengthening of the democratic institutions. She said that they will call an emergency meeting of the ANP central committee in which they would chalk out their future line of action.

Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Calls For President's Removal

BK1904092593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Karachi—President of Tehrik-i-Istiqlal and a PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leader Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan has called for removal of President Ghulam Ishaq as he is "responsible for the present unsavoury situation in the country."

Addressing a Press conference here on Sunday he said that other PDA partners will also join him in the struggle for removal of the president. He held President Ishaq Khan responsible for the present turmoil in Sindh province and said due to his intervention the Army has not been able to "haul up the 72 big fish" involved in heinous crime.

He declared the charges levelled by Nawaz Sharif against Ghulam Ishaq Khan correct and said he was trying to destabilize the elected government. He also promised to raise the matter in the meeting of the heads of PDA parties, which will be held soon.

He ruled out any possibility of Martial Law in the country in the near future and hoped Prime Minister would still be steadfast on Eighth Amendment and oppose the nomination of President Ishaq Khan for the second term. "We will now press Nawaz Sharif to hold fresh elections and hope he would hold talks with PDA so that he should become powerful in the democratic system."

Intelligence Chief Nasir Dismissed

BK1904092693 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The Directorate-General Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt. General Javed Nasir has been removed from his office with immediate effect from Saturday, THE FRONTIER POST learnt through reliable sources.

His immediate junior in the organisation will act as the acting DG until a new appointment is made. Lt. General Javed Nasir was apoointed DG ISI some two years back during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif as prime minister. He was considered 'Nawaz Sharif's man' in the political circles.

In another development, the corps commander of Karachi Lt. General Naseer Akhtar has also been transferred from post. It was learnt on good authority that Lt. General Naseer Akhtar himself requested the COAS [chief of army staff] General Abdul Waheed for his transfer.

House Speaker To Remain Until New Assembly Formed

BK1904093893 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Under the Constitution of Pakistan Article 53, Section 8, the Speaker of the National Assembly can hold his office as Speaker until the formation of the new Assembly and the election of a new Speaker. Thus present Speaker of the National Assembly, Gohar Ayub Khan, would continue to act as speaker.

Caretaker Prime Minister Holds News Conference

BK1904095793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Exerpts] Islamabad—Prime Minister Balkh Shar Mazari in his first informal press talk at the Aiwan-e-Sadr [President's House] said that if there are cases and proof against former Prime Minister Nawaz Shairf then he would definitely be arrested.

"My priority will be an honest government," announced the new Prime Minister who now heads a two-man cabinet in the interim set- up. He took oath of his office at exactly 10:10 p.m. Mazari insisted that his was a national government rather than a caretaker but insisted: "I hope elections will take place in 90 days."

Admitting that he was very nervous Mazari pleaded with the big crowd of journalists: "Please give me more time as I am not as yet prepared." His nomination confirmed speculations that the next Prime Minister would also be from the Punjab. The soft spoken Parliamentarian from Dera Ghazi Khan who was acceptable to both PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the Muslim League has brought with him Hamid Nasir Chattha who was the first to openly start a rebellion against Nawaz Sharif, and Farooq Leghari, former deputy leader of opposition in the National Assembly.

Though it is a PPP and Muslim League government Hamid Nasir Chattha says, "I am yet to be introduced to Benazir Bhutto. We have never met." Leghari said, "This is a government of national consensus and all the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members have resigned from the Assemblies." Mazari said that he would soon expand his cabinet. [passage omitted]

Among those who attended swearing in ceremony of Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari were COAS [Chief of Army Staff] Gen. Abdul Waheed, Air Marshal Syed Masood, Chairman Joint Chief of Staff, General Shamim. Admiral Saeed, the naval chief and the Speaker National Assembly, Gohar Ayub Khan were absent. The Speaker will remain in office till a new one takes over. Others who were present included Roedad Khan, Mir Afzal, Anwar Saifullah and Hussain Haqqani.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan did not take any questions form the large contingent of journalists present at

the Aiwan-e-Sadr but noticing the impatience of the media men said, "If you hear my telecast later tonight then many of your questions would be answered." One of his closest advisers was more interested in the reaction of the media. He asked, "What do you think? Are you happy?"

Dissolution of the Assemblies was not totally unexpected. Not after the former ambitious industrialist Prime Minister, in the words of the President, tried to "openly subvert the constitution."

The President met with the Punjab Assembly Speaker Manzoor Watoo in the morning and then went to the Turkish Embassy to sign the condolence book. Then there was a flurry of press conferences all over town and it became difficult for the press to keep up. In the end it appeared to be just a deception plan while the President did his homework.

Of special interest to the Pakistani media which had faced tyranny at the hands of Nawaz Sharif government was the President's special mention in his dissolution speech of the atrocities of Nawaz Sharif against his opponents and the national media.

Comments on Cabinet Formation

BK1904112293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today and discussed with him the agenda and formalities of the interim government. The meeting lasted over 90 minutes, in the later part of which two federal ministers—Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha were also present. The president pointed out that the first and foremost task before the caretaker government was to make fool-proof arrangements for holding free, fair and impartial general elections on the scheduled date. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan also emphasized the need to take immediate measures to restore the people's confidence in the country's administration. The caretaker prime minister assured the president that the best of his own and his government's attention and energies would be devoted to matters concerning the holding of elections and improvement of general administration. He also discussed with the president formation of cabinet and some other national matters of immediate concern.

Ambassador to U.S., Other Officials Resign

BK1904101393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Lahore (APP)—Punjabi Governor Mian Muhammad Azhar resigned from his office on Sunday evening after the decision of the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, it was announced officially. He packed up his personal belongings from the Governor's House and left for his residence quietly Sunday evening.

The Director Intelligence Bureau, Brig. [Brigadier General] (Retd) Imtiaz Ahmed here on Sunday resigned from his post. When asked about reason he said "on principle".

Our Correspondent from Washington adds: Pakistan Ambassador to U.S. Syeda Abida Hussain, has resigned from her post on Sunday in protest to the dissolution of Assemblies by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. She has said that in dislodging the elected government of Nawaz Sharif and dissolving the Assemblies, Ghulam Ishaq Khan has held his personal interest over the larger national interest.

ICO Foreign Ministers Meeting as Scheduled

BK1904103093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is being held in Karachi on 25 April. A foreign office spokesman stated in Islamabad that the acting prime minister, Balakh Sher Mazari, will inaugurate the conference. The five-day conference will discuss the Bosnia, Palestine, and Middle East issues. The foreign ministers will also consider the Kashmir issue and the atrocities committed by India on the innocent people of occupied Kashmir.

Party Faction To Elect Sharif New Chief

BK1904103793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Despite the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif's government the General Council of Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (Nawaz faction) will meet today to elect Nawaz Sharif as its new chief.

Haji Nawaz Khokhar, deputy speaker of the defunct assembly, who hosted the meeting of Central Working Committee Saturday told THE NEWS late Sunday night that the council would meet according to the schedule.

Nawaz Khokhar said all the council members would participate in the meeting and that Junejo's successor will be elected in it.

On the other hand, Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, the acting president of the PML of his own faction, said now there was no need of convening meeting of any council. He said the council meeting hosted by Nawaz Khokhar would not be held as the tents had been removed from there.

He said with the removal of present government the battle for PML top slot had also ended. "We who were on the right path have won the battle." He said he was not the "acting" chief of the party but "I am the regular president of the party and will remain in the same

capacity." "If I feel appropriate I will convene the meeting of the PML otherwise there is no need of it."

He said with the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government his race for PML top slot was over. When asked whether he would be a candidate for the PML presidentship, he said, there is no need of it because I am the president of the party.

Sharif Addresses Supporters at Rawalpindi Rally

BK1904111993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] ISLAMABAD, April 19 (AFP)—[passage omitted] In Rawalpindi more than 2,000 of Sharif's supporters staged a noisy demonstration against the president.

Sharif, who earlier took over as chief of his Pakistan Muslim League after his unanimous election despite opposition by the party's pro-president faction, addressed the crowd, attacking the president's [word indistinct] powers.

He told the responsive crowd that he would not rest till the present unjust system, which gave the president power to oust him, was changed.

"We are up against the enemies of Pakistan," he said adding that his dismissal has angered the entire nation which would never forget the president's action. He was accompanied at the rally by his intelligence chief who resigned after Ishaq Khan sacked Sharif.

His political ally and Pakistan's ambassador to the United States Abida Hussain also abandoned her post after the presidential action, as did Mohammed Azhar, governor of his home province Punjab and another close Sharif ally.

Sources said protest rallies were also held in the Punjab capital of Lahore where Sharif supporters burned tyres and blocked roads.

News reports said shops were closed in some small towns as a mark of protest by business communities, but no major incidents of violence were reported.

Political Leaders Comment on Dissolution

BK1904103093 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Karachi, Apr 18—Terming the dissolution of National Assembly as an 'expected' move on the part of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the deputy chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, Prof Ghafoor Ahmed said that it was an outcome of the allegations Mian Nawaz Sharif had levelled against the presidency in his address to the nation on Saturday.

Giving his reaction to DAWN on the dissolution Prof Ghafoor said that if Mr. Sharif had thought that the President was adopting unconstitutional measures to remove his government, then he (Mr. Sharif) should have moved a resolution of impeachment against the President as a provision for such a situation is present in the present in the Constitution.

"Instead of making allegations against the President in public, Mr. Sharif should have adopted constitutional step", he opined.

When asked to comment about the repercussions of the dissolution of the Assembly, he said that there was no doubt that the decision will definitely create a major crisis in the country. "Rulers make mistakes and the nation and democracy suffers," he remarked.

He said that his party had been urging both the President and Mr. Sharif to reconcile their differences but all our advise went unheeded.

Chief of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] Allama Shah Ahmed Noorani said that the 'bogus' National Assembly which had come in the wake of 'rigged' elections has, in fact, met its fate.

Talking to DAWN on the telephone, he said that in his view the President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should have taken such a decision much earlier.

Allama Noorani, who is also President of Islamic Democratic Front (IDF), said that it was duty of the new caretaker government to make arrangements for holding free and fair elections in the country in accordance with the Constitution. He demanded of the President to appoint a new Election Commissioner and Election Commission so that it could hold free and impartial elections.

The JUP chief also urged the government to make Mr. Nawaz Sharif, his cabinet members and all other members of the dissolved Assembly accountable so "that no legislature, in future could plunder national wealth".

When MQM [Mujahir Quami Movement] Chairman Azim Ahmed Tariq was contacted to get his reaction, he said that although it was premature to comment at this stage, yet after hearing the President's speech it appeared that he (President) had to take the decision.

Former MPA [member, Provincial Assembly] and a leader of MQM Haji Shafiq-ur-Rehman while hailing the President's decision urged the businessmen to refrain from indulging in politics as their main task is to protect the interest of traders community. [passage omitted]

Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League [PML] and former Sindh Minister Mr. Zuhair Akram Nadim described the dissolution of the Assembly a great blow to democracy in the country.

"The decision would not only destabilise the country but would also shatter country's economy", he added. Describing the dissolution of the Assembly as "the last nail in coffin of democracy in Pakistan, the PML leader said that people have been disappointed with it".

Foreign Currency Accounts, Payments Policy Unchanged

BK1904115193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Inquiries have been received in the Finance Ministry regarding the policy relating to foreign currency accounts following the change of government in Islamabad. The Finance Ministry has said unequivocally that the government's policy relating to the maintenance and operation of foreign currency accounts for Pakistani residents and nonresidents as well as others will continue unchanged. The policy at present in operation regarding the exchange and payment system will also remain in place.

Ex-Minister Arrested for 'Irresponsible Statements'

BK1704085993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Former Minister of State Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has been arrested for his irresponsible statements. A case has been filed against him.

U.S. Accused of 'Masterminding' Arabs' Arrests

BK1704140593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Amir Jamaat-e-Islami [JI], Peshawar, Shabir Ahmad Khan, accused the American consul to city of masterminding the arrest of Arab nationals. He was addressing a protest meeting at Kabuli Chewk here on Friday as a mark of solidarity with Arabs.

A series of protest demonstrations, started after the government crackdown on Arabs, continued in Peshawar. Friday's demonstration of Jamaat was third of its kind. It started with a procession which turned into a public meeting at Kabuli Chowk. It was addressed by Shabir Ahmad Khan, Hakim Abdul Waheed, Amir JI district Peshawar, Maulana Rabat Gul, secretary general, Muttahida Ulema Mahoz, NWFP [North West Frontier Province] and Maulana Abdur Raheem Chitrali, leader of Jamiat-e-Ittehad Ulema Islam.

Shabir Abmad alleged that member of civil administration had disclosed to him that the operation against Arabs was started on the order of American consul, who was asking for the extradition of all the Arab mojahedin. He condemned the atrocities perpetrated by the government against their Muslim brethren and said that both Nawaz Sharif and Ghulam Ishaq Khan were American agents, serving US interests in Pakistan. He claimed that after the disintegration of Soviet Union, the American government was considering the Muslim Ummah [community] as its main rival. He resented that at the time of Russian presence in Afghanistan the Americans needed the services of these Arabs but after the Russian defeat they termed them terrorists and fundamentalist. He lamented, "the Americans and western powers are hatching conspiracies against establishment of true Islamic government in Afghanistan". He amidst anti-U.S. slogans vowed that they would continue struggle against America and its agents.

A resolution was also passed unanimously in which the participants condemned unemployment, price-hike, obscenity and law and order situation. It demanded of the government to immediately close down all the showing obscene films.

Hakim Abdul Waheed while addressing said that throughout the country they had arranged protest demonstrations to show solidarity with their Arab brothers. He claimed that if America called them terrorists then they would be proud of it. Pointing at the Afghan orphans, present there, he praised the Arabs who had launched various projects for their Afghan brothers.

Other speakers also condemned government actions towards Arabs and deplored that they were kept in inhuman conditions and nobody was allowed to meet them.

Earlier, the procession, started from Hasthnagri Chowk passing through Ashraf Road, Grand Trunk (GT) Road, Ander Shehr Bazzar reached Kabuli. The protestors were holding placards and banners, which were inscribed with anti-American and anti-government slogans.

F.P. [Frontier Province] Islamabad Bureau adds: Addressing a protest demonstration in Rawalpindi, Friday Dr. Kamal, divisional president of Jamaat-e-Islami, termed the government action of arresting Arab nationals in Peshawar as an American move to prevent them (Arabs) from taking part in jihad in Kashmir.

Dr. Kamal said that it was because of Indian propaganda which connive America to orer the federal government to arrest these Arabs. He told that even then many Arabs were fighting in Kashmir beside Kashmiris against the Indian aggression.

He alleged the Arabs were arrested so that the rest of the Arabs might not take part in Kashmir freedom struggle.

Jamaat MPA [member of Provincial Assembly] Haneef Chaudhry while commenting about the sacrifices of Arabs told that they had fought the war of sovereignty of Pakistan. It is highly immoral to treat these Arabs with such a disgrace, Chaudhry said.

Earlier, a procession was taken out from Jamaat's office on DAV College road which marched up to Fewwara Chowk where the demonstration was held.

PPI adds: The public meeting was addressed by speakers from different sections of the society. Speaking at the occasion Muhammad Shah council RMC condemned the cruel treatment meted out by Peshawar authorities to the guest volunteers from Arab countries labour leader Ishtiaq Assi warned that if the government succumbed to foreign pressure and mistreated the guest volunteers Pakistan would have to face problems. Mian

Muhammad Aslam Amir JI Islamabad praised the contributions of Muslim volunteers who abandoned all comforts of their hearths and homes to establish hospital, crisis school, welfare houses to serve the Afghan refugees.

Dr. Muhammad Kamal said that if the allegation against the Arab volunteers of involvement in terrorist acts was true then the Pakistani government had been their supporter and patron during the Cold War.

Indian Troops Said To Kill 125 People in Kashmir

BK1604145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, there is no letup in Indian atrocities, as the occupation troops martyred seven more people. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], three people were shot dead by the troops during house-to-house searches in Sopor. Three other people were martyred in Badgam which is under siege by the troops. Reports say occupation forces set ablaze several houses and shops during siege and search operations in Sopor.

At least 125 innocent Kashmiris have been martyred by the Indian troops during the last five days. The mojahedin in retaliation attacked Indian positions and killed 11 troops in various parts of the held valley. The mojahedin also claim to have captured a military vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition. A curfew has been clamped in Batmaloo area of Srinagar, where 10 Indian troops were killed on Wednesday during house-to-house searches. The situation in Doda District is reported to be tense.

Meanwhile, the mojahedin leaders have reaffirmed their pledge at a big rally held at Hazratbal in Srinagar today to continue the struggle till the goal of liberation from the Indian stronghold is achieved. Thousands of people had managed to assemble at the shrine despite strict restrictions by the Indian forces to pay tribute to the martyrs. The mojahedin leaders declared that the lofty objective for which countless youths have laid down their lives will be achieved, no matter how great the sacrifice. A fervent appeal was made to the United Nations to force India to stop its carnage in occupied Kashmir and effectively implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Protest Lodged With India Over Arrest of Nationals

BK1904082393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has protested to Indian authorities against the arrest and detention of a group of Pakistani nationals, who are currently visiting places of religious significance in India. Two officials of Pakistan High Commission accompanying them were also arrested. The Indian deputy high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Office and told of the serious concern of the Government of Pakistan over the evidently uncalled for arrest and detention of 64 Pakistani citizens in Cochin, Kerala state on 16 April and two officials of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. The Indian diplomat was asked to convey to his government the Pakistan Government's demand for the immediate release of all the detainees and their early return to Pakistan. It may be mentioned that the Pakistani nationals visiting India belong to the Hindu community and are undertaking visits to Hindu temples and religious sites with the prior approval of the Indian Government.